

May 2003

The Northfield GRAPEVINE

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Preview of the June Program

Message from the Program Chairs

Only a few short weeks remain before Northfield 2003—The Art of Peace. Darcy and I are excited about our program, and are now counting the days for the most important event of all—our gathering together in community.

We are putting the finishing touches on what looks to be an outstanding schedule of workshops—from yoga to drum-making, from dancing for peace to healing energy circles, from creative writing to folding 1000 origami cranes to inter-relational peace. There will surely be something to touch every soul, to inspire every spirit, to awaken every heart.

We are including in our evening schedule some items back by popular demand—like the Water Follies, the Coffee House, and of course the beloved Thursday night Talent Exposition. Down in Billings, we are planning to make the Coffee House room into a more comfortable and funky place for conversation all week long, with mood lighting and cozy furniture pilfered from some of the finest dorm lounges on campus.

As with all works in progress, however, we are still, well, in progress regarding at least one essential service. Despite our many phone calls and emails and letters to Northfielders far and wide, we are still without a coordinator for our nightly food sales at Billings. This involves some logistics around procurement of juice, water, soda and snacks before the Conference, collecting and storing donated goodies brought by Conferees, and creating a coverage schedule for the food table each night.

Darcy and I can't take this on ourselves. We would hate not to have food service at Billings this year, especially with our planned upgrade of the Coffee house space, but we need some intrepid soul to answer the call. Please please please think about it. I will personally pen and publish on the egroup an ode, in verse, honoring the collaborative spirit and entrepreneurial élan of the first person to volunteer.

Your hopeful Program Co-Chair,

Jim Peters

Children's Program 2003

The Art of Peace

This year's program promises to be more exciting than ever! We hope to work with all the children as a group as much as possible. We would like the week's program to be a week long building of a Peace Pageant/Play complete with giant papier-mâché puppets, music, dance, drama, and games.

We will have workshops to work with ideas from the children as well as for creating the puppets, props and songwriting.

We hope to start each morning with cooperative games for the whole group to get our body, mind and spirit warmed up for the day. To help us gather the recycled materials we will need to create our magical presentation, we would appreciate any newspaper and cloth material you could donate to us.

Looking forward to seeing all of the children of the Northfield community,
Holly

Goings-on: The Northfield Coffee House and Web Site

Coffee House

Once again, we will have the Northfield Coffeehouse on Wednesday evening, in Billings. We hope to have the room refurbished for the whole week, to make it more like a living room, with comfy furniture and soft lighting.

Writers, poets, and scribblers of all kinds are all welcome to share their work with us. Please limit yourself to a maximum of five minutes per person.

We also hope that the visual artists will again grace the room with their works. We will have special coffee available.



Web Site

One of the hardest things to do is to describe to someone what Northfield is all about. And the easiest way to solve this problem is to lead your friend to the Northfield Conference Web site.

The site features several descriptions, photographs, a list of themes from past years, a schedule of a typical day, and contact information.

Use the site to help us spread the word, and bring Northfield to the attention of new people.

www.thenorthfieldconference.org

Campus Changes and Other Notes

From the Conference Coordinators

The Executive Committee just had it's annual pre-conference visit to the campus, and we learned about some important changes that have a big effect on us.

First, Sage Chapel has become structurally unsound. Parts of the foundation have shifted by 2 feet, and it is in danger of totally collapsing! Future plans are up in the air and dependant on fundraising to do extensive renovations, but for this year, obviously, it is not available to us. We have several options available to replace Sage Chapel for Sacred Circle. We could use the tent in front of Gould for as long as it is left up (remind you of evangelical meetings?), we could meet on Round Top when the weather is good, or we could use the Auditorium, the Music Hall, or Gould Living Room. Our Sacred Circle planners will be working with the EC to decide which of the options are best. So be prepared for a wonderful adventure each evening.

Also, Merrill-Keep is in the midst of total renovation. Other dorms are available, so this will not have a major impact on us, but it does

affect housing for handicapped members, and the location of the children's program. We are going to make sure that these items are arranged for. On the other hand, after M-K is fixed up, it will have an elevator and much better facilities for accessibility

We also want to remind you of several unrelated things. Please remember that the entire campus is a non-smoking area. Please bring a bed board with you if possible, since the number of these items is very limited. Please consider offering items and services for the Silent Auction. Items with high values can be offered with minimum bid requirements so that they will not go too cheaply.

Finally, please let us know if you have any ideas, any complaints, any compliments... whatever! We aim to please.

Your Conference Coordinators,
Betsy Taylor, Peggy Andreas,
and Peter Bloch

NOTE: Northfield By-Laws Changes

The Executive Committee has been working with the dedicated members of the committee we charged with modernizing our by-laws.

That Committee is composed of Ron McClain, Andrew Mason, and Roger Bunker. The fruits of their efforts (along with the old by-laws for the sake of comparison) were made available to everyone who is on the eGroup. Now you should expect to get the final draft of the proposed new By-Laws in your mailbox, no

later than two weeks before the June conference. At the Annual Meeting, we will be having an official vote on the adoption of the changes. Since the changes are extensive, we hope you read the new document carefully in advance of the Annual Meeting, and ask the Committee members to explain anything you have questions about. The Annual Meeting is on Friday afternoon, June 20.

Family Facilitators Welcome

Northfield is coming fast and already we can feel the warm breezes and sunny days! For many of us, Families are a central part of the Northfield experience. And Family Facilitators are what make this experience work well.

We have been calling folks to be Facilitators and we are always open to anyone joining us! Truly ... the more the merrier!

So if you would like to join this great group of folks who keep watch on the Families, please contact any one of us ... SOON!

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