

BEGINNINGS

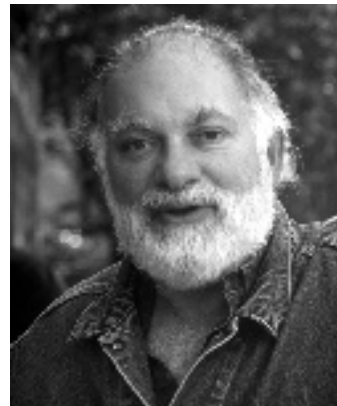
Bernie Glassman and Sandra Jishu Holmes founded Peacemaker Circle International in 1996. They had previously developed the Greyston Mandala, an



integrated network of for-profit and not-for-profit companies providing comprehensive resources and services to the inner city of Yonkers, New York. Greyston introduced a successful welfare-to-work model and was one of the pioneers of social enterprise,

using business to solve many inner city problems. Administered by the Greyston Foundation with an annual \$10 million budget, Greyston now includes, among others, the Greyston Bakery, a profitable \$5 million food production business, the Greyston Family Inn, creating permanent housing for formerly homeless and low-income families, and Greyston Health Services, providing housing and medical services for people with HIV/AIDS.

Glassman and Holmes were inspired to apply their model of interconnectedness to the development of a global peace organization. They realized that just as it took a multi-dimensional approach that offered jobs, supportive housing, and child-care to end endemic homelessness and public dependence in one inner city neighborhood, today's social and economic problems are so complex that they, too, require a multi-dimensional approach. This approach calls for bringing different social action organizations together into circles to develop new ideas and take collaborative action to produce broad-based, systemic change.



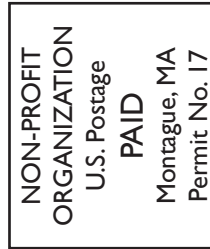
Bernie Glassman

*"The
peacemakers
we remember
and honor most
are those who
try to heal our
society as a
Whole, not just
pieces of it."*

— Bernie Glassman

Peacemaker Circle International

177 Ripley Road, Montague, MA 01351-9541



Peacemaker Circle International, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation with headquarters in Montague, Massachusetts.

Peacemaker Circles



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Peacemaker Circles

Imagine you don't have to work alone.

Imagine coming together with others. Not in an umbrella group or coalition, but in a circle.

Whether our individual work takes us to war zones, AIDS hospices, inner city streets or inside prisons, imagine a circle of peers asking one basic question: "How do we transform society?" Not out of prescription, but out of listening. Not out of knowing, but out of not-knowing, with as few preconceptions as possible.

When we bring our different pursuits, passions and projects into a circle of peers, we think more creatively than when we are alone or with people who do the same work, or think only as we do. New ideas germinate. Fresh approaches develop that are broad-based, inclusive, and holistic. New solutions emerge that we hadn't seen before.

Peacemaker Circles trigger a synergy and creativity that can tackle systemic and even global problems, for the circles connect across countries, regions, religions, and cultures. Each circle impacts both locally and around the world.

THE TENETS OF THE CIRCLE

Since members of Peacemaker Circles work in different areas and on different issues, they are constantly faced with the challenge of diversity. For this reason they subscribe to three tenets:

We envision peace as a process that integrates spiritual practice and social action by honoring the oneness of life and the interconnectedness of all beings.

Our mission is to support and nurture the development of a global, multi-faith movement of spiritually based social activists, linked through interlocking circles around the world, who are able to achieve more effective peacemaking by developing new ideas and implementing new strategies through joint action and collaboration.

Not-knowing: We let go of fixed ideas concerning ourselves and other people in order to be as open as possible to the voices in the circle.

Bearing Witness: We listen deeply to all the voices, especially those from whom we differ.

Loving Action: We take broad-based action that reflects all the different voices of the circle.

WHO ARE THE MEMBERS OF PEACEMAKER CIRCLES?

Peacemaker Circles are not only for people involved in conflict resolution. Individuals, nonprofit organizations, community and spiritual groups, and socially responsible businesses, if you want to make a meaningful difference in the area of social and economic justice, AIDS, education, political reform, conflict resolution or the environment — you are invited to sit in a Peacemaker Circle.



HOW DOES IT WORK?

Circle members come together to share stories and ideas, break down barriers, generate new ways of thinking, develop initiatives and strategies, and cooperate in collaborative action.

Each circle is connected by its elected representatives to other circles. These circles are also interconnected by information and communication technologies, thus becoming in essence an Internet of social justice and peace activists. Members thus become aware of the realities, challenges, and needs of their counterparts in other circles in different parts of the world.

The result? An integrated and holistic movement of spiritually based activists initiating and affecting change around the world through collaborative action on all levels. Peacemaker Circles are creating a new paradigm for working with deep-seated economic, social and environmental issues through the integration of different approaches and methods.



The new Internet Café in Faradis.

HOW ARE WE WORKING TOGETHER?

The Forum for Civil Agreement, comprised of one-hundred and fifty Israeli Arab and Jewish co-existence groups, has asked Ruach Shalom, or PC-Israel, to train and organize its groups in Peacemaker Circles to create more collaboration and effectiveness.

Members of Wspólnota Pokoju (PC-Polska), and PC-USA collaborate to develop hospice training and volunteer programs for hospices in Poland.

An initiative to create a reconciliation center in Belfast, Ireland by members of the PC-Ireland affiliate receives support from PC activists in San Francisco.

A Jewish Israeli businessman and an Arab Israeli youth, both members of Ruach Shalom collaborate to open and operate an Internet café providing on-line opportunities for the Arab town of Faradis.

Various PCI affiliates in Europe and the Middle East collaborate to bring trainings such as Nonviolent Communication and the Way of Council to France, Italy, Poland, and Israel.

PEACEMAKER CIRCLE INTERNATIONAL

Peacemaker Circle International serves as a global hub, providing the administrative support, communication network and training in circle structures that are essential to the success of Peacemaker Circles. Located in Massachusetts, USA, on a 34-acre campus, Peacemaker Circle International connects members and circles around the world. The campus also contains a **Peacemaker Institute**, which provides training for activists in circle development, cross-cultural communication, and group process. Activists from various countries come here to train in the circle methodology and return to their respective homes to organize and link circles. In addition to giving classes, workshops, and conferences on a variety of peacemaking tools, it assists members in locating off-campus peacemaker trainings wherever they're given.



The House of One People will host workshops and trainings, and contain the offices of Peacemaker Circle International.

The **House of One People**, which began construction in May 2003 on the beautiful New England campus, will be a multi-faith facility for workshops and retreats. It is a sacred space where people from different religious and spiritual traditions can come together and be one people.

"The peace I am thinking of is the dance of an open mind when it engages another equally open one."

— Toni Morrison

The Peacemaker Circle Foundation supports these efforts by providing the strategic planning and financial support needed to successfully meet the mission of Peacemaker Circles worldwide.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?

If you would like to form a Peacemaker Circle in your community, church, temple, business, or organization, contact: info@peacecom.org for more information and to find out when upcoming trainings will be taking place.

If you would like to financially support this important work, there are several giving levels, from *Partners in Peace* at \$10,000 or more, to *Companions in Peace* at \$1,000 and above, to *Friends in Peace* beginning at \$25, each with its own benefit package like naming opportunities, invitations to trainings and educational programs. All receive newsletters, special mailings and updates.

It takes approximately \$2500 for each peacemaker from the Middle East, Latin America and elsewhere to attend training programs provided by Peacemaker Circle International. Thank you for your support and generosity.

Your tax-exempt donation can be made to the **Peacemaker Circle Foundation**
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