



Friends of Peace Pilgrim

A Non-Profit, Tax-Exempt, All Volunteer Organization
P.O. Box 2207 ☞ Shelton, CT 06484 ☞ (203) 926-1581
www.peacepilgrim.org ☞ email: friends@peacepilgrim.org

Spring 2011

“Overcome evil with good, falsehood with truth, hatred with love” - Peace Pilgrim

Number 55



Peace Pilgrim led two inspirational trips in the last years of the pilgrimage. This photo was taken on the Hawaii trip of 1980 and shows Peace walking toward the ocean.

Dear Friends of Peace Pilgrim,

Here in Connecticut the last patches of snow cling to the shady field edges and the first crocus have pushed their bright faces into the sunshine. We are happy to report that Peace Pilgrim's message of inner and outer peace continues to travel around the world offering hope, encouragement and inspiration to friends, old and new, near and far.

Our connection to the internet and Peace Pilgrim's presence on the *World Wide Web* have added a new dimension to the pilgrimage begun **“on foot and on faith”** in the streets of Pasadena on January 1, 1953.

Not long ago most of our requests for books, booklets, and other offerings came by mail or phone. Today the largest portion of our requests comes by email.

In addition to printed versions of our materials, almost all of our published offerings can now be accessed in digital format and have the ability to reach the farthest corners of the world almost instantly. This is also true for audio and video presentations of Peace Pilgrim's message.

The *Steps Toward Inner Peace* booklet is available

online in 27 languages. Inside this issue you will find articles on the two most recent translations. There is also information on our *Coloring Storybook*, which is again available.

Friends of Peace Pilgrim has also established a presence on Facebook, the social networking website. As of early March we have over 2000 friends following us there. Some of their comments appear in our “Notes From Our Friends” section.

Finally, thanks to you and all of our friends who are actively keeping the pilgrimage lively in the world. We are eternally grateful for your peaceful presence and many contributions to creating a peaceful planet for all.

In peace and friendship,
The Friends of Peace Pilgrim Board
Bruce Nichols, Cheryl Canfield, Jeff Blom, Richard Polese, Mayte Picco-Kline, Barbara Reynolds, and our Oklahoma City Volunteers

“One little person, giving all of her time to peace, makes news. Many people, giving some of their time, can make history.” *Peace Pilgrim*

Steps for the World

When John and Ann Rush hosted the Peace Pilgrim Center in their home in Hemet, California (1984 – 2000) a large bookcase dominated the living room on which were displayed copies of the Steps Toward Inner Peace booklet in many languages.

When visitors arrived they were always given a tour by Ann that included a detailed account of all the translations that had been sent to the center by translators from around the world. Often the copy on the shelf was the only one existing beside the few that had been printed in the home country of the translator.

The internet has changed all that. Thanks to the efforts of Bob Kline husband of board member Mayte Picco-Kline, all of those rare editions of the Steps booklet have now been scanned and converted to PDF files that can be downloaded from our website. In addition to the original translations from our Hemet center, new translations continue to be created by volunteers who have been moved by Peace Pilgrim's message and inspired to share her words in their native tongue. The Steps Toward Inner Peace booklet is now available in 27 languages that can be quickly acquired and reproduced all over the world. Here are two stories of recent additions to the collection.

"Steps Toward Inner Peace" in Romanian



Roxana

Roxana Bobulesco, a Romanian lady who lives in France doing research and teaching Economics, is now a part of our team of translators and is letting us know the great news, "I have the extraordinary joy to send you the Romanian version of the *Steps toward Inner Peace*."

"I had a very deep, deep feeling of an inner call and I will pursue this wonderful journey with the translation of the Book."

This is her story in her own words:

"When I was a young student at the University of Grenoble in 1995, I received the *Peace Pilgrim* book in its French version, *Pèlerin de Paix*, from a friend of mine, Christine Abt. I read it and fell in love with it and spent days and nights reading it again and again. I read it so many times that I began to know it by heart and every word left an everlasting print on my mind. As years had passed by, I graduated, got married, had children,

got a job, made friends, traveled far. Fifteen years later, time has come for me to become involved with the Peace project. After several searches on the web I discovered the Friends of Peace Pilgrim website. I saw the many translations accomplished by people from all over the world and discovered that a Romanian translation was missing. And I said to myself: 'This is for me, I'd love to do it!' So, I contacted Mayte, who was so supporting! I feel I am given today an opportunity to develop a peace activity.

"I translated the *Steps Toward Inner Peace* during the holidays (in August 2010), in windy Brittany, in a fishermen village called Plouhinec on the Northwestern coast of France. While my two little girls were taking a nap in the afternoon, I was completing the *Steps* translation to my mother tongue, Romanian. It was a revival of my roots, as I live in France and speak French most of the time. It made the text even more lively! I can tell you, when the kids were up, their mom was at her best!"

Roxana wishes to share a thought with our readers:

"People have dreams, high hopes, but during hard times pessimism dominates. Today, when people disqualify their highest dreams by saying 'Utopias!' I retort: rather than utopias it is just our Higher Nature goals and God's plans! Let's give life to our hopes! Let's live with a dancing heart!"

"Steps Toward Inner Peace" in Vietnamese



Mom, daughter, Mai

Dear Friends,

I am honored to be able to translate Peace Pilgrim's *Steps Toward Inner Peace*. She has truly been an inspiration for me. I have never read any book so many times in my life. Peace Pilgrim is a true Christ and a true Buddha living in our time.

One of the books I borrowed was *Mystics, Masters, Saints, and Sages - Stories of Enlightenment*. From this book, I found out about Peace Pilgrim through my husband, Jon. My husband read the book which had a short biography about Peace Pilgrim. He then looked her up on YouTube and was moved by a documentary video describing her work. She was so lively and full of

energy. He then read both her books and printed *Steps Toward Inner Peace* in Korean for his mom. I wanted to print it for my mom too but there were no Vietnamese translations. This was when I decided to translate the book. I am happy and feel honored to have translated this wonderful book. I have never done anything more meaningful. I have awakened personally and spiritually.

I now enjoy going to church. I look forward to celebrating Christmas, Easter and other religious holidays. I enjoy practicing both Christianity and Buddhism. I welcome all religions. To me all religions are pretty much directed toward one goal, the Truth, except that different religions have different interpretations and path leading to this one Truth.

I now have learned that God is not some Being far above in the sky who can't be reached. God is everywhere. God is in everyone and everything. That is the greatest knowing of all. However, I also believe that "Knowing is not enough; we must apply. Willing is not enough; we must do." I hope to be able to apply and do what Peace Pilgrim has taught. It will be a challenge but I will try.

Thank you everyone for keeping her work alive.

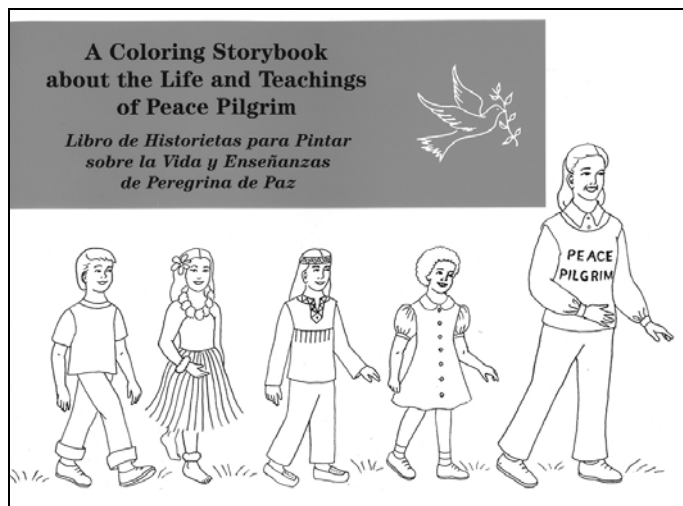
Peace to all,
Mai

Thérèse TuyếtMai Nguyễn

Steps Toward Inner Peace can be found on our website in English and the following languages: Arabic, Bulgarian, Chinese, Croatian, Danish, Dutch, Finnish, French, German, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Nepali, Norwegian, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Ukrainian. Vietnamese, Hindi, Gujarati, Kannada, and Tamil.

www.peacepilgrim.org/htmfiles/WorldSteps.htm

New Edition! A Coloring Storybook



We are happy to announce that our *Coloring Storybook* is once again available from Friends of Peace Pilgrim. This offering was originally published in 1999. A separate Spanish edition followed. The new publication is 8.5 x 11 inches in size and has both the English and Spanish texts

in one volume. The book includes the story of Peace Pilgrim's journey and message in a style suited for children and younger readers. Opposite each text page is a black and white line drawing that can be colored in crayon or colored pencil. To request a copy send an email to friends@peacepilgrim.org or write or call us at:

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Walking Around the World



Jean Béliveau in British Columbia on the final leg of his Round-the-World walk for peace.

For a number of years our Friends of Peace Pilgrim newsletter has been following the pilgrimage of Canadian Jean Béliveau as he walks around the world to promote "Peace and non-violence for the profit of the children of the world." Jean began his journey at 9 am on August 18, 2000 and has been walking for over 10 years.

His route has taken him through North and South America (2000-2003), Africa (2003-2005), Europe (2005-2007), the Middle East (2007), across Iran, India, Nepal and China (2007-2008). He has walked the length of Japan, through Indonesia, and across Australia (2009-2010). Most recently Jean completed a south to north traverse of New Zealand. Jean has walked over 43,000 miles since he began.

On January 30, 2011 Jean arrived back in Canada and has begun the final 3000 miles of his journey. His route will cross Canada from west to east beginning in Vancouver, British Columbia. Jean expects to finish in October of this year.

Jean has traveled alone, pushing a three-wheel stroller containing his few possessions - a bit of food, his clothing, a First Aid kit, a small tent, and a sleeping bag. Learn more about Jean and his pilgrimage at: <http://www.walk.org/en/>

"Every good thing you do, every good word you say, every good thought you think vibrates on and on and never ceases. The evil remains only until it is overcome by the good, but the good remains forever." Peace Pilgrim

Two “friends of Peace Pilgrim” who inspired us as well as many others around the world were Dr. Robert Muller and Doris “Granny D” Haddock. Both made their “glorious transitions to a freer life” in 2010. We remember them here:

Robert Muller (1923-2010) worked at the United Nations for over 40 years. He rose to the position of Assistant Secretary General. He was also founder and the first chancellor of the United Nations University for Peace in Costa Rica. It was his vision that led to the creation of a Peace Pilgrim statue that was dedicated on the grounds of the University in 2000. A number of our board members as well as Peace Pilgrim’s sister Helene Young participated in that event. Robert was a peacemaker, philosopher, prophet, poet, and inspiration to all. You can learn more about him at www.robertmuller.org.

Decide to open yourself

By Robert Muller

To God
 To the Universe
 To humanity
 To all your brethren and sisters
 To your inner self.

Open your mind
 Open your heart
 Open your soul
 Open all your being and senses

To the greatness of Creation
 To the beauty of our Earth
 To the potential of the human race
 To the infinity of your inner self

And you will become the Universe
 You will become Creation
 You will become the Earth
 You will become humanity
 You will become infinity

And you will be at long last
 your real,
 divine,
 stupendous self



Dr. Robert Muller

“Granny D” – Doris Haddock (1910 – 2010)

walked across America in 1999 at age 89 to raise attention to the need for campaign finance reform. Inspired by Peace Pilgrim, Doris started on January 1, 1999 in Pasadena, California, and, like Peace Pilgrim, traveled as a pilgrim, walking until given shelter and fasting until given food. Her walk garnered national media attention and was the subject of a documentary film. In 2004 at age 94, she ran for the US Senate in her home state of New Hampshire. Granny D relates the role Peace Pilgrim played in inspiring her walk in *You’ve Got to Read This Book* compiled by Jack Canfield and Gay Hendricks; published by William Morrow 2006 (see page 265). You can learn more about Granny D at www.grannyd.com.



Doris “Granny D” Haddock in 2009

Photo courtesy Andrea Raila - www.artworkandrearaila.com

“When I returned to New Hampshire, I told a friend of mine, a woman I’d been playing Scrabble with for many years and who went to my church, about my idea to walk across the country. She told me I should read *Peace Pilgrim*.

“Before I read her book, I had never heard of Peace Pilgrim. Although she was not a young woman, she walked continuously for 28 years, logging more than 25,000 miles. I was immediately intrigued by her story, and over the course of a few days, I read the book twice. I needed to know her strategy for walking across the country, whether she had problems, how she had trained.

“Peace Pilgrim started walking in 1953, at the same time that Joe McCarthy was conducting his witch hunts. She called herself simply Peace Pilgrim - she never gave her name or her age - and she walked for peace. She carried nothing with her, ‘walking until given shelter, fasting until given food,’ but eventually had been supported by many different churches. What inspired me most was her simple philosophy: ‘Overcome evil with good, falsehood with truth, and hatred with love.’ She never wrote any books, just a few little booklets. After she died in 1981, a few people compiled all of her ideas and experiences in a book, *Peace Pilgrim: Her Life and Work in Her Own Words* - the book my friend told me to read.

“I remember one particular passage that gave me

special comfort. The book describes one cold night when Peace Pilgrim found herself in an unexpected snow-storm, walking in snow up to her knees with no traffic on the road. She came to a bridge, climbed down under it, found a big carton with newspaper in it. She wrapped herself up in the newspapers and was able to survive the night. It convinced me that someone not of this world was protecting Peace Pilgrim - and would watch over me as well.

"Reading about Peace Pilgrim was just the thing I needed to help me go forward with my idea. If she could do it, so could I! I was only going 3000 miles - she had gone more than 25,000! Since I didn't believe that I would be supported by churches or anyone else, I began training by carrying a 29-pound pack on my back with a sleeping bag, a bottle of water, and five pounds of trail mix (in case I ever found myself without food.) I started slowly and walked a little farther each day, until I could walk ten miles at a time."

In our last issue we shared a beautiful poem by renowned writer and poet Naomi Shihab Nye. While digging in our archives recently we found this letter sent to us a few years ago by her mother, Miriam.

Our Friend, Peace Pilgrim

By Miriam Allwardt Shihab - Dallas, TX

Peace Pilgrim came into my life in 1960 when my children were young. I was always concerned, at least under my every-day mommy surface, about their future in an uncertain world. I was especially worried about the future of our son -- there was a draft then. Also I heard so much about the Middle East war(s) and wanted a solution. Could there ever be peace?

A philosophy professor's wife, Mrs. Huston Smith; invited me to their home to meet a special house guest who would be speaking to students -- Peace Pilgrim, whom she described as a true "saint." I felt great expectation as I sat in the listening circle and great excitement as she came quietly into the room in her blue tunic outfit and blue canvas sneakers. Soon I would learn she had no possessions except the few small items -- a comb and toothbrush, a pen, some postage stamps -- that she carried in her pocket. She was backed by no organization or bank account. She carried no money. She was introduced as a pilgrim, a wanderer who had retired from the world of possessions on a mission for peace. She was walking thousands of miles, coast to coast, speaking about peace to anyone who would listen.

The students asked her questions -- I was much impressed with her answers. Invited to share a vegetarian supper with her, I was able to ask my own questions as I sat right next to her. She was so inspiring and energetic, I practically floated home.

As I grew to know her, her lifestyle and message, she remained such a mystery that I imagined she might even be from outer space. She seemed superhuman. Her answers didn't come from books. She had an inner knowing and assurance, and a very calm great presence.

Her teaching concerned peace on every level. Outer

peace starts with inner peace. We must try to follow the divine laws and not the jungle laws of tooth and claw. Revenge, of course, was out.

She said she was always protected in her roaming and riding with all kinds of people: So when I drove her around, I felt the safest in her presence that I ever felt. I thought her protection would rub off on me. Therefore it seemed shockingly ironic when she died in a car crash. But her sister, whom I met later, said, "We always wondered how she would die because she was never sick." She had been blessed with the gift of complete good health when she started her pilgrimage. She never even had a cold.

I consoled myself with her voice saying, "Well, would you have wanted me to wander forever in all the elements, sleeping under bridges, on newspapers?" (By the end of her life she had so many friends everywhere she rarely had to sleep like that anymore.)

Now her mission is up to us. Her words and work reverberate in the lives of many who loved and listened to her. She remains the most unforgettable person I have ever met.

Notes from Our Friends

From Michael in Virginia:

Thank you for sending me the two pamphlets and the book on the life of Peace Pilgrim. I managed to read through the pamphlet and was moved by her inspiring words.

Yesterday, I was at work and just starting to read the book when a customer came up to my counter to buy some sympathy cards for a friend who recently lost her parents. She talked about wanting to give her friend a way to find solace in these difficult times. In the spirit of Peace Pilgrim's message, I gave her one of the pamphlets I had to give to her friend. When she asked if I had another copy, I was initially going to give her your website link so that she can get the book for free herself. Then, as if the words, "You can do better than that" popped into my head, I gave her my copy of Peace Pilgrim's book. When she offered to pay me for it, I said, "I got the book for free. I'm giving it to you for free." She promised to read the book and then return it to me when she's finished.

In the meantime, I was hoping it would be possible to get two copies of the book this time: one for myself and one to give away should the opportunity present itself.

From Julie in Florida:

I have just been introduced to Peace Pilgrim for the first time, and how blessed I have been since reading her words. Thank you so much for providing this literature for anyone who needs it. It is life-changing!

Peace's words resounded so much with who I really am, that I have the confidence to continue (with great enthusiasm) down my own little path to God and with God.

More Notes from Our Friends

From Lisa in California:

The first time I heard of Peace Pilgrim was when I was in prison...and I requested and received a copy of the book. I read that book from cover to cover and it changed my entire outlook on life. When I was paroled I took it with me. Of course I shared the wisdom of Peace Pilgrim with everyone who would listen. I ended up giving it away and ordered another. That was nine years ago.

Since I gave that first book away, I have ordered, read and given away several more copies of the book. I find myself without a copy again and would like to receive another if possible.

I am in a period of my life in which Peace Pilgrim's words would be a great help in maintaining a positive attitude to get me through a most negative situation. I would really appreciate a copy of her book. I would gladly pay \$100 for those powerful words but am barely making it through the month right now as it is. I do hope you can send me one.

From Georgia in Colorado:

In the late 70s I had the privilege to meet Peace Pilgrim. She stayed at the Baha'i Center in Pueblo, Colorado where I was living at the time. Peace actually shared some of her food with me. (I was doing the starving student thing.) I did not realize the significance of her visit at the time. She had a powerful presence and yet was sweet. I liked her very much. The strength of her conviction was amazing to experience.

When I realize that people do not know her, I introduce them to her. What they do after that point is their affair.

May I please have a few more copies of the *Peace Pilgrim* book to share?

From a prisoner in Rhode Island:

I am writing today to ask that you take me off your mailing list. I only ask this because after seventeen years I am soon to be released.

I only heard about Peace Pilgrim about five years ago, but your periodic newsletters and updates have become a blessing. I was also moved by the book "Peace Pilgrim" and the "Steps Toward Inner Peace" which you sent to me a few years back. As I leave here I'll take the message of peace out to the world when I go.

In closing I'd like to say "Thanks" for all the literature and information. It helped me find peace in a not so peaceful place. May God bless you a hundred fold. P.S. Just seventy-two days to go!

"Inspiration gives no warnings."
Gabriel Garcia Marquez

From Our Facebook Page:

I found the *Steps Toward Inner Peace* in a pile of old books that a college professor was giving away some years ago. Now it never leaves my side. - CJ

Thank you for sharing your light, in the form of literature. It has been fun strategically placing the *Steps Toward Inner Peace* guide in various spots around...♥ Peace, I owe you much. Thank you for your wisdom. - Nancy

I found the book *Peace Pilgrim* in a used book store in California in the mid 1980s. She was an amazing person, and her story, life and philosophy are more important today than ever before. I recommend her book to anyone seeking truth in our existence. - Rick

This woman has changed my life just knowing someone really walked their talk. what a fabulous example that we can follow in her footsteps, unafraid, and completely immersed in inner peace. I am experiencing spiritual conversations with her as she guides me to freedom from the self. thanks so much for creating this site in her honor! - Penelope

I would like to thank the Friends of Peace Pilgrim for keeping her message alive! I truly feel blessed to have gotten to read about her and hear/watch her speak. I feel like a whole new conscious person! Thanks! - Kelly

One of our Facebook friends asked the question, "How did you find out about Peace Pilgrim?" Here are two of the answers:

Good question! I was reading an online interview by Nick Zammuto, who is a member of my favorite band, The Books, about two years ago, by "coincidence" during a very difficult time in my life. He mentioned that anybody who is genuinely interested in peace should look her up online. I did so, got her book, was transformed, and the rest is history! - Jenny

A peace library in Manila was selling her book. That was in 1993 when I was still in college. After bumping into her again in the www, I have decided to rekindle my spiritual relationship with this modern saint. - Jupiter

You can follow us on Facebook by typing "Friends of Peace Pilgrim" into the search box at the top of your profile page. When you visit our page, just click on the "Like" link to become a "Friend" and receive our updates. We post weekly quotes and other news and information about Peace Pilgrim and our work.

Our books, *Peace Pilgrim: Her Life and Work in Her Own Words* and the Spanish translation, *Peregrina de Paz* are now part of the Google Books library. You can read and search either edition online and also download a PDF copy of the book that will display in its original format. We hope to have e-reader editions available soon for the Kindle and other platforms.

Offerings from Friends of Peace Pilgrim

Dear Friends of Peace Pilgrim: Here are publications we offer freely to all who ask. Many of our friends inquire about sending a donation. These are always welcome but are not necessary to receive our offerings. Friends of Peace Pilgrim is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations and bequests are tax-deductible. All money goes directly to our work, helping us to continue producing and distributing materials to all who ask.

PUBLICATIONS

PEACE PILGRIM: Her Life and Work in Her Own Words (Standard Edition), 224 pages. Compiled by five of her friends following her transition in 1981.

PEACE PILGRIM (Compact Edition), 224 pages. This book is the same as the Standard Edition except smaller.

PEREGRINA DE PAZ: Su Vida y Obra en Sus Propias Palabras, 216 pages. (Spanish edition of *Peace Pilgrim*)

STEPS TOWARD INNER PEACE 32 pages. Peace Pilgrim relates her own steps toward inner peace and gives ideas for working for world peace.

(*Steps Toward Inner Peace* is also available in Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, and Hebrew. It is also available on audio cassette. Please call or write for information.)

A COLORING STORYBOOK ABOUT THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF PEACE PILGRIM, 48 pages. The book includes text in English and Spanish and 23 complimentary illustrations that can be colored – suitable for young adults and children of all ages.

PEACE PILGRIM, An Extraordinary Life by Ann Rush, 16 pages. Peace Pilgrim's life is traced from her ordinary beginnings through a transformation to a life of unusual commitment.

AUDIO CASSETTES

CAMPBELL HOUSE, 1959 (90 minutes). A talk that is representative of her message. It also has a brief radio interview the day before she died.

SALT LAKE CITY, 1955 (60 minutes). Recorded two years after her pilgrimage began. A gentle talk to a small group in a friend's home. Sue Millard sings a song composed by Peace Pilgrim.

DALLAS CHURCHES, 1979 (60 minutes). Two talks representative of her vigor, joy, and audience rapport. It also has a song composed by Peace Pilgrim, sung by Don Wittig, and Peace Pilgrim's energizing song, "The Fountain of Love."

MORE AUDIO

PEACE PILGRIM'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH (67 minutes). The sound track of the first hour of the "Speaking to a College Class" video. At the end of Side B, Peace Pilgrim relates one of her prison experiences.

STEPS TOWARD INNER PEACE. Our little booklet in its entirety on audiotape! Narrated by Ann Rush.

DVD VIDEOS

PEACE PILGRIM INTERVIEWS (DVD). Includes a short TV program from *PM Magazine*, a 25-minute interview for WIFR-TV in Rockford, Illinois, a 30-minute interview at Pensacola Junior College, and our previous 24-minute Highlights video. This DVD is subtitled in English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Portuguese, and French. It also includes a wealth of DVD-ROM extras in PDF format and in several languages.

PEACE PILGRIM LECTURES (DVD). This disk contains over three hours of video including talks given to students at California State University, a question and answer session with students at the University of Georgia, the Pensacola Junior College Interview, and the *PM Magazine* profile.

PEACE PILGRIM DOCUMENTARIES (DVD). All of our documentaries are now bundled onto one DVD disk. Included are: both English and Spanish versions of *PEACE PILGRIM: An American Sage Who Walked Her Talk* (one hour): a professional quality documentary film, about Peace Pilgrim's life with much new historical footage and interviews: introductions to the "Sage" documentary in English and Spanish: and *THE SPIRIT OF PEACE* (71 minutes) an earlier documentary featuring interviews with those who knew Peace Pilgrim and those who were inspired by her message.

OUR NEWSLETTER – To be added or removed from our newsletter mailing list, please contact us at the address below. All of our past newsletters as well as the *Peace Pilgrim's Progress* newsletters sent by Peace Pilgrim during the years of her pilgrimage, and the newsletter *Travesia en Paz (Peaceful Journey)* in Spanish and English are available on our website. You can access them at:

<http://www.peacepilgrim.org/news/index.htm>

Send Requests to:

**Friends of Peace Pilgrim, P.O. Box 2207, Shelton, CT 06484
or call (203) 926-1581, or email: friends@peacepilgrim.org**

“I have faith that God will care for me, and God does provide my needs. I don't in any way feel insecure because I don't know where I will sleep at night, where or when I will eat next. When you have spiritual security, you have no more feeling of need for material security.”

*Peace Pilgrim: Her Life and Works
in Her Own Words – Page 127*

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Pushing World Peace - It's a Living

Excerpts from the Honolulu Advertiser – August 15, 1980

She cuts an eccentrically charming figure – the sneakers, the ponytail, the blue walking suit, each piece a gift from a different friend in a different part of the country.

In the expansive pouch pocket around her middle she has stowed all her possessions – a plastic comb missing a tooth, a collapsible toothbrush, a pen, slips of blue paper that bear her message of world peace, and a bundle of letters from friends all over the country... All of this certainly does not mean Pilgrim is without problems. Far from it. She just looks at them differently. “Problems are opportunities for growth.”

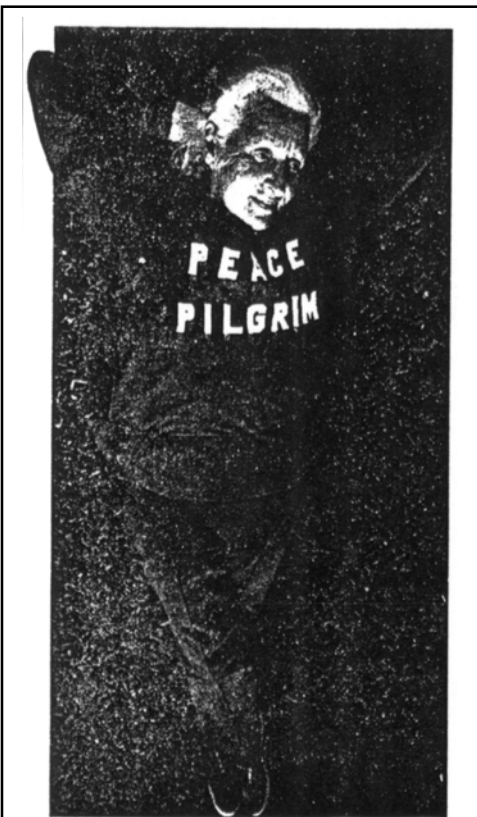
One could say her unorthodox lifestyle probably ensures a full advantage for such growth. Consider this, her second trip to Hawaii: She led an independent educational tour of 15 people on what she calls a two-week “camping trip” to the islands. The airlines don’t really like such tours, but they’re allowed under FAA rules and enable her to get a free ticket as the tour guide, she says.

“They first tried to tell me to go to a travel agent,” she says, smiling a toothy grin. “Well you see,” she told them, “I can’t do that because I’m a wanderer, a pilgrim.”

“You’re a WHAT?” said the agent. Pilgrim smiles. “I finally said, ‘Think of me as a traveling speaker.’ They could relate to that.”

Pilgrim’s little group spent two weeks traveling the islands, sleeping on beaches in parks and cooking over campfires. She ran the tour like she runs her life.

Pilgrim leaves Monday, flying back to Los Angeles and then Bismarck, North Dakota on gift tickets to pick up her pilgrimage course. She alternates between zigzags and loops back and forth across the county, trying to loop through Cologne, N.J. every so often to visit the friend who forwards all her mail.



Peace Pilgrim: “This is what I’m doing with my retirement years.”