

Since the earliest days of Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the UN, the group has organized and/or participated in special events and celebrations to highlight and honour progressive qualities and aspiration, for a “Oneness World”.

These occasions could be based on broad themes like: “Peace- Harmony”; “International Cooperation”; “World Gratitude - International Thanksgiving”; “Heart-Home of the World-Body” or “Leadership”. They might also be in recognition of local observance for UN Community such as “National Day of Prayer”.

UNITED NATIONS ANNIVERSARIES

Many observances initiated by the group highlighted events with historic meaning for the UN Community from earliest days: UN Charter day Jun 26th, September Opening of UN General Assembly session and the later Day of Peace and especially UN Day Oct 24. Later additions to official UN calendar were also embraced to celebrate: “Mother Language”; “Yoga”, “Culture of Peace”; “Non-Violence” and “Interfaith Harmony”.

These programmes helped create a feeling of solidarity across the various offices of the UN Organizations; provided a short pause in the important ongoing work of staff and delegates; a chance for individuals to give expression to their feelings through music, poetry art or recitations; and often lead to a re-commitment to the highest ideas that had originally inspired people to serve.

Some annual days, special years and decades of the UN inspired individual members to come forward to serve as volunteer coordinator or assistants to plan and facilitate colleagues’ participation in accordance with preferences, ability or availability. Lasting friendship were created across agencies, age groups and among delegations especially by some of those assisting or regularly supporting annual events.

For information about official UN Observances see: <https://www.un.org/en/sections/observances/>

In the early years, the members of the meditation group would often suggest theme or event to be celebrated, like the opening of the 30 Anniversary of the UN General Assembly in September of 1975. Over time more Country Delegations and other UN organizations were involved or co-sponsored. In later years members have joined other UN related organizations’ events for the UN community. The Sri Chinmoy Meditation at UN choir and musicians have often perform inspiration songs related to Peace and themes like Human Rights at more formal UN events celebrating Interfaith Harmony Week, International Mother Language day, and Culture of Peace etc.

Below are photos and short excerpts to provide a flavor of a few events. You can also find some overlap of anniversary events with more detail in other sections of this booklet, for example:

[3-07 Music, Song, Concert Programmes](#)

[3-09 Interfaith Harmony & Shared Values](#)

[3-11 Peace Walks and Runs for UN](#)

Possible content page for this section?;

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01 Jan 1942; Declaration by United Nations – Washington DC, USA

First official use of the term “United Nations”

On 1 January 1942, representatives of 26 Allied nations met in Washington, D.C. to pledge their support for the Atlantic Charter by signing the “Declaration by United Nations”.

This document contained the **first official use of the term “United Nations”**, which was suggested by United States President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (seated, second from left).

UN Photo # 31319



Special Annual UN Days

UN Charter Day (26 June)

Charter Preamble

WE THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS DETERMINED

to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and
to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and

to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and

to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,
AND FOR THESE ENDS

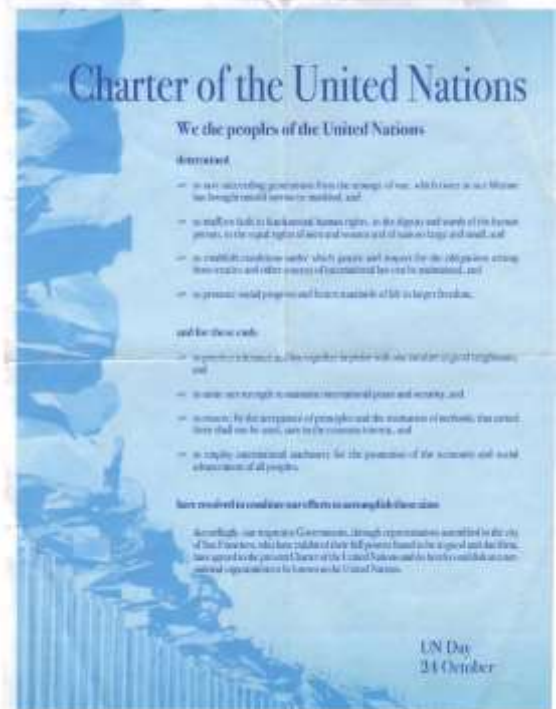
to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and

to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and
to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and

to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

HAVE RESOLVED TO COMBINE OUR EFFORTS TO ACCOMPLISH THESE AIMS

Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organization to be known as the United Nations.



26 June 1945 - UN Charter Singing



25 April – 26 June 1945: The San Francisco Conference, results in signing of UN Charter by representatives from 49 countries.

Full charter at

<https://treaties.un.org/doc/source/docs/charter-all-lang.pdf>

Virginia Crocheron Gildersleeve (October 3, 1877 – July 7, 1965) **Signer of UN Charter**, Dean of Barnard College, sole female USA delegate to 1945 San Francisco Conference, which negotiated the UN Charter to create the UN.

1945-06-26jun-sign-un-charter-un-photo235970-USA-delegate-Dean-Virginia-C-Gildersleeve-signs-Pres-H-Truman-stands-4.jpg 2 M

26 June 1984 - Charter Day - Jorge Illueca, President of the UN General Assembly

“ I would urge that we avail ourselves of every opportunity of this kind, both as individuals and as representatives of our respective countries’ to re-dedicate ourselves to the ideals which we are striving to realize in our devotion to the principles and purposes of the United Nations.

“Peace is not a passive state; it is not merely the absence of conflict. It is the effective expression by all nations of a determination to create and continuously support a world of progress and development, governed by justice and understanding’

“We see the United Nations through Sri Chinmoy eyes, as a church of mankind, dedicated to worshipping the aspirations of men, women and children of all races, nationalities and political and religious beliefs for a better life ... “ -26 Jun 1984,

Jorge Illueca, President of the UN General Assembly , signing a copy of the preamble of UN Charter.



1984-06-25-09-jun-charter-day-ckg-amb-hold-charter-26-jun-crp. ED Print Note: **Lighten Photo** before use.

Sri Chinmoy on the UN Charter

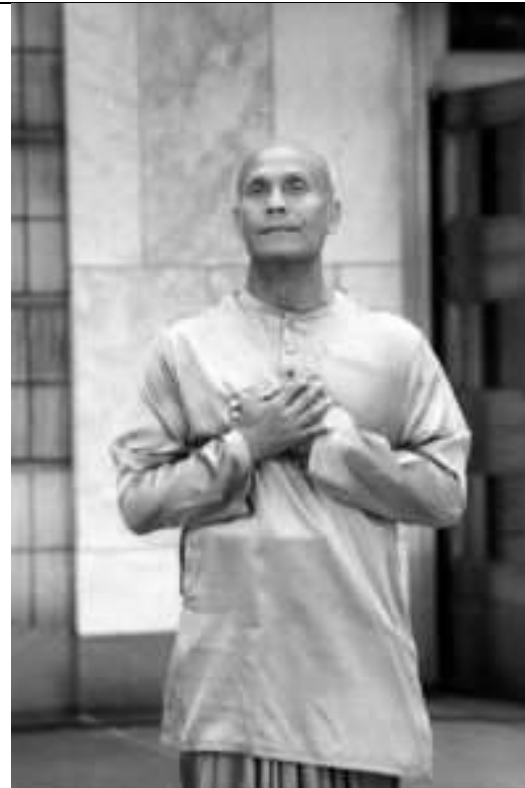
“The supreme role of each individual nation is to maintain a genuine faith in the United Nations and implicitly abide by the United Nations Charter. (MUN 25), 9 May 1979.

“The American Declaration of Independence had the pioneer vision of faith, dignity and humanity’s basic needs: equal rights, justice and freedom. Basically, the same things are found in the Charter of the United Nations. ... both are walking together to reach the self-same goal, the goal of world peace and satisfaction. (BF-40), [1976](#).

“The U.S. Declaration of Independence and the U.N. Charter are humanity’s two aspiration-dedication-realities.

“The beacon-light of the Declaration of Independence shows countless human souls the way to their destined goal: “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal, that they **are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness**, that to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

“The United Nations Charter bravely and heroically proclaims these rights for all of humanity and seeks ‘to reaffirm faith in **fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small**, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom.’” (IR-18) 6 Jun 1980



1984-06-25-04-jun-charter-day-ckg-meditate-final-prog-26-jun.

UN Charter Day – Celebrated in London June 26 1989

There was a non-denominational Peace meditation at London’s Westminster Methodist Central Hall to commemorate the 44th anniversary of the signing of the U.N. Charter.

Members of various Faith traditions attended the meditation. Some members of the Peace Meditation Group at the UN were able to attend this event as well as several peace concerts and ceremonies during Sri Chinmoy’s June visit to France and England.

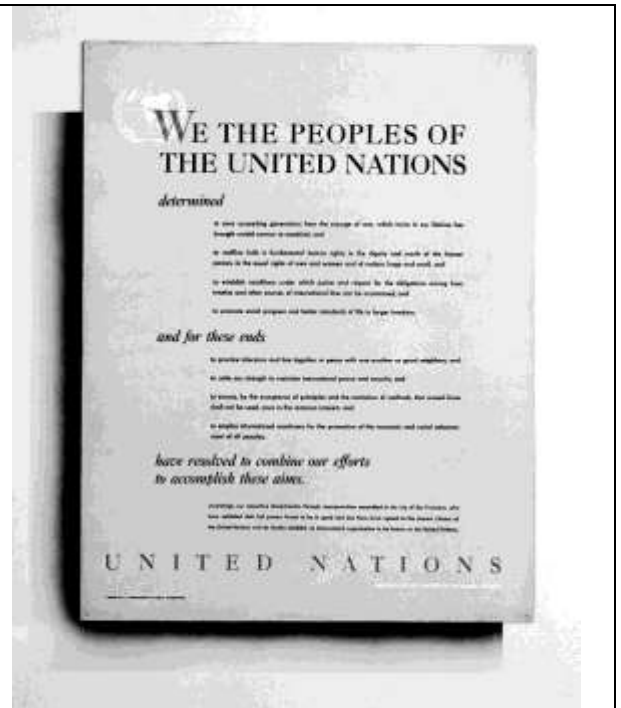


Jun 2015: Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson:

At an event marking the 70th anniversary, Deputy Secretary-general Jan Eliasson said the UN Charter **“symbolises the hope and aspirations that we can bring the world as it is – a little closer to the world as it should be. This we can do through cooperation, dialogue, peaceful settlement of disputes and respect of human rights.”**

“Yes, the UN Charter is truly a gift. It reminds us – as the present stewards of the United Nations – of our responsibilities to live up to the Purposes and Principles of the Charter. It connects us to our strongest roots and our best aspirations as we reach out to an uncertain, yet hopeful, future – if we travel the right road”. Mr. Eliasson, a national of Sweden, also previously served as President of the UN General Assembly.

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2015/06/502832>



See More about Charter Day Peace walks and runs at:
[Part 3-11 Highlights Peace Walks for UN – 1983 to 2001 Draft](#)



Annual September Opening of UN General Assembly Sessions:

Opening of the UN General Assembly (second week of September) On A number of occasions The Peace Meditation Group at the United Nations had special observances to mark the opening of the General Assembly. Some examples and links to more details are below:

1975 observance: “The Quintessence of Divinity in Humanity: International Cooperation for Peace.”

Summary: Inspired speakers from the UN community joined interfaith representatives around this theme for a conference celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the opening of the General Assembly in 1975. The Secretary-General sent a special message and the song “O United Nations” which Sri Chinmoy had recently wrote in dedication to the United Nations was performed.

Link to detail: [Commemoration Opening 30th Session UN General Assembly 12 Sep 1975 – Interfaith](#)

On Friday, September 12, 1975, inspired by the observance of a “Minute of Silent Prayer or Meditation” at the opening of each United Nations General Assembly; to commemorate the opening of the thirtieth session of the General Assembly; and in a spirit of re-dedication to the lofty aims and ideals of the United Nations. A

programme, was held in Conference Room 3 , attended by delegates, Secretariat staff members and NGO representatives.

EXCERPTS FROM THE PRAYERFUL CONTRIBUTIONS BY RELIGIOUS LEADERS



Participating guest-speakers offered their prayerful contributions; **Quotes to be considered** to highlight

NORMA LEVITT, Co-Chairperson, World Union for Progressive Judaism.

“In these days of contemplation, ... We yearn for sustained hope, unyielding faith and spiritual regeneration, as we look not only inward at ourselves, but also outward at the world in which we live.

We pray that all nations and all peoples shall strive together, shall sacrifice if necessary, for a world community of justice, development, harmony and peace “



followed by REVEREND JIH TSANG, Assistant Abbot, Temple of Enlightenment;

MUDDASSIR ALI SHAMSEE, Leader, Muslim Prayer Group, at the UN;

REVEREND DR. DAN POTTER, Executive Director, Council of Churches, City of New York



On the topic *“The Quintessence of Divinity in Humanity: International Cooperation for Peace.”*



75-89A-18-d-burgess-unief-1975-open-ga-sep-crp-02

MR. DAVID S. BURGESS, Senior Officer, United Nations International Children’s Fund “*We need ... to consider limits to the high standards of living so that others. may have ... a decent future. The greatness of the United Nations is ...in human and failing ways, attempting to deal with the ultimate questions of survival. .. there is hope no matter from which nation we come, but only if we come to realise our interdependence, our mutual closeness “*

followed by **MR. DONALD KEYS**, United Nations Representative of the World Association of World Federalists

Other presentations included:

Statement by Secretary-General for commemorative programme; Singing song “**O United Nations**” which Sri Chinmoy wrote in **dedication to the UN**; and **Choral reading** based on excerpts from the writings of past UN Secretaries-General . **Words to Song O United Nations:** *O United Nations, O UN, You are the world-body Crying for the world-soul. And you are the earth-life Longing for oneness-goal. In the heart of your glowing dream, Big brothers and brothers small Shall smile, sing and dance – O Vision-Perfection in all.*



Meditation Group at UN singing “O United Nations”

1976 observance: “Inner Flames at the United Nations” Mark Open 31st GA ; 20 Sept

In order to bring into sharper focus the living reality of the UN in conjunction with the 51st anniversary of the UN and the opening of the 31st General Assembly the following day, the Peace Meditation Group at the UN held on September 20 in Conference Room 3 an all-day meeting, Entitled “Inner Flames at the United Nations,” explored the role of meditation and spirituality in U.N. affairs.

The morning session was devoted to an inner search through meditation for the present day needs and responsibilities of the UN.

Sri Chinmoy, opened the morning session, which consisted of silent meditation, performances of classical music and [seven songs about the United Nations](#) which were composed by Sri Chinmoy. The session closed with his talk .

1976-09-20sep-inner-flames-conference-at-un-sri-chinmoy-crp-01



“Our capacity is very limited, but our willingness, our eagerness to be of service to each member, to each ideal of the United Nations, is sincere. And this sincerity will one day be proved and marked. Here

at the United Nations, all are inner flames. No matter what an individual’s post is, whether he holds the highest post or the lowest, he is undoubtedly an inner flame, for his is the cry which is genuine.

Each individual server of the United Nations, irrespective of his nationality or religious and cultural background, is undoubtedly an inner flame. And each flame serves the community of nations according to its capacity and according to its receptivity. Each individual who has come to serve the United Nations represents his own country, his small world. But when he becomes part and parcel of the United Nations, the big world, at that time he is for all, for the entire humanity. He started his journey with his own country and then he arrived at the goal of goals: universal oneness. – Sri Chinmoy , The Seeker’s Mind, 1978 (/sm-4)

<p>One of the songs performed about the UN “O Body of the World” was immediately popular for its simple lyrics and dynamic presentation.</p> <p>It was later sung by the meditation group choir at many UN related events.</p> <p><i>“O body of the world, O soul of the world, In you the nest Of cosmic oneness- rest.</i></p> <p><i>Yours is the nectar- role;</i></p> <p><i>Our souls desire to grow In your duty’s vision-glow song-o-body-of- world-music-score-sri-chinmoy</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">O Body of the World (2)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Words and music by Sri Chinmoy</p> <p>(♩ = 120) Moderate</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>D.C. al fine without repeat</i></p>
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Excerpts condensed from some afternoon programme speakers:



1976-09-20sep-inner-flames-conference-at-un-habitat-Secretariat-Barbara-Nijari-DeLong-crp

Barbara De Long of HABITAT; "the consideration of the crisis that the world is now facing in human settlements naturally encompasses both the physical and spiritual needs of the world's people.

For these two aspects of human existence can never be separated. Without a secure and livable environment, we will never be free to enter into the search for a deeper, spiritual knowledge of our lives; and, at the same time, by our aspiration, prayers and meditation, we actually create the forces of peace, beauty, harmony and love for one another which alone can permanently correct the harsh and often unpleasant realities that we face in our present environment."

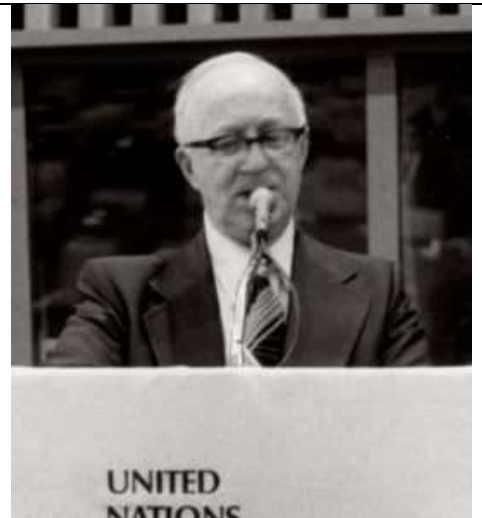
Donald Keys of the World Federalists; "...accomplishments, in the end, rest on the fortitude and aspiration of those who work ceaselessly and courageously for them. We find members of the Secretariat, delegations and non-governmental organizations, individuals who see themselves as among the trustees of mankind and making every effort toward realising that trust."

Louis Longarzo of Caritas Internationalis:

"Spiritual values and approaches are enduring and formidable forces in shaping character, institutions and events. Multitudinous documents and millions of words flow through the United Nations system annually.

But the credibility, the solidity, and the vitality of the U N system hinges on the men and women of integrity in the Secretariat, delegations, NGOs and national political leaders . They are the salt, light and cement of the UN system.

The Charter of the United Nations recognizes integrity in Article 101, section 3: "Paramount consideration in the employment of staff and in the determination of the conditions of service shall be the necessity of **securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity.**" **Integrity implies wholeness, unity, honesty, purity, humility, trustworthiness, truthfulness.** It must be earned through ... steady commitment and daily application of the highest moral, intellectual and spiritual values in our lives



976-09-20sep-inner-flames-conference-at-un-DR. LOUIS LONGARZO-Caritas Internationalis-crp

...if we want to truly strengthen our respective countries and the United Nations system, let all of us individually and collectively pursue in everything we say and do, integrity. Shakespeare aptly summed it up. And I quote, "To thine own self be true. Then it must follow , as the day the night, you cannot be false to any man.

Curtis Roosevelt of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs : "...my remarks are impromptu, sparked by Louis Longarzo's reference to integrity. Some of you have been in the Secretariat for a brief while, and others have been a long while. Some, like myself, only twelve years.... There is a professional integrity, there is the integrity of anyone... who works in the UN system; and then there is the personal integrity that we have as individuals. . . . A certain sense of personal integrity ... is the only thing that really prevents you from spiraling downhill as a professional, ... as an international civil servant. The only thing that keeps you on a level, or

hopefully moving occasionally upwards, is a sense of your personal integrity. And that, of course, is arrived at by your meditation and, I think, without a doubt, by your own spiritual values.

William Simmons, Chairman, Mystic’s Roundtable discussion Group at the UN; “We identify ourselves with the motto for this day’s conference: “Inner Flames.” We are all inner flames. ...humanity taken collectively is simply one body. We are the cells of humanity. We are therefore the inner flames...And as we develop ourselves, as we allow that light, which is within us, to shine forth, so do we enlighten and illuminate the body of humanity. (this) is not new ; it is old. But the world has forgotten the ancient teachings. I sincerely hope that hearts and minds of the distinguished delegates will be touched ...that the future of the world itself will be spiritually illumined.

Statements received from the US Mission to the UN and the Permanent Observer of the Holy Sea.

W. Tapley Bennett, Jr . Deputy Permanent Representative of the United States to the UN: ” The United Nations continues to represent a unique opportunity in the hearts and minds of mankind throughout the world for cooperation and the advancement of universally held goals. It must have the whole-hearted support of individuals and their spiritual dedication. As an avenue for expression of this dedication, the Meditation Group is to be commended for keeping the need for support of the United Nations high in public consciousness.”

The Office of the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations, expressed their joining in spirit with the Meditation Group Conference and sent a section of Pope Paul’s Message from this year’s Day of Prayer for Peace. “It is necessary before all else to provide peace with moral weapons, those which give strength and prestige to international law moral principles which are only at the beginning of their penetration into the profound and operative consciousness of Peoples . . .”Let us remember ... the extent of the mercy we ask for when we say : ‘And forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven those who are in debt to us’ This is a lesson to be meditated on still more and to be applied with confident courage. Peace expresses itself only in peace, a peace which is not separate from the demands of justice but which is fostered by personal sacrifice, clemency, mercy and love.”

1977 observance: “United Nations: The Heart-Home of the World-Body”*

United Nations:
(with bird design)
**The Heart-Home
of the World-Body**

On 19 September 1977, to **mark the opening** of this year’s **General Assembly**, United Nations **delegates, staff and NGO representatives met in Conference Room 1** to reflect on the theme “**United Nations: the Heart-Home of the World-Body.**” Speakers explored the continually expanding role the United Nations plays at the heart of the global community.

In the **tradition of the silent meditation which opens each session of the General Assembly**, the Conference **opened and closed with a short meditation led by Sri Chinmoy.** The programme also included music and short recordings of all the Secretaries-General. Speakers included :Mr. Robert Chittenden, Chairman of the Staff Committee; Mr. Ervin Laszlo, Special Fellow, UNITAR and Director of the Report of the Club of Rome, “The Goals for Mankind” ; Mr. Ghandikota V. Subba Rao, Senior Officer, Department of Economic and Social Affairs ; and Mr. William Angel, Associate Officer, UN Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs who said "I do believe that the U.N. is the heart-home of the world body. I think it is a very sacred

heart. but I think the heartbeat is far from adequate . . . Besides being an incipient brain and nervous system for the world-body, I believe the United Nations embodies the heart of this emerging universal religion of which the historical, sacred and contemporary secular faces are but branches. And I believe that the UN presently is working out this larger synthesis."*

***Note: On Programme title:**

At an event 03 May 1977, in support of UN efforts for peace and the upcoming 1977 World Environment Day, a painting by Sri Chinmoy was unveiled.

It was titled: "United Nations: The Heart-Home of the World Body". It then toured other cities to draw attention to UN efforts.

The title phrase also became the theme of this event marking the opening of the UN General Assembly the following September.

The striking poetic interpretation "The Heart-Home of the World-Body" became synonymous with support for the UN over the years.



3 May 1977, Ms. Martha Lackner, World Environment Day Coordinator unveils Sri Chinmoy's painting dedicated to the UN efforts toward World Peace entitled: **"The United Nations: The Heart-Home of the World-Body"**. At the 1977 [World Environment Day program in June](#) the Meditation Group choir was invited to participate and again performed **"O Body of the World"** composed by Sri Chinmoy. In her letter of thanks Ms. Lackner says the important contribution **"reminded people of the significance of wholeness and seren1ty in our lives."**

1995 observance: Concert for 50th UN General Assembly
with N.Y. Philharmonic members – "World-Harmony Pilgrim-Dream".

Sri Chinmoy meditated and performed Sept. 19 at the start of a chamber music concert by members of the New York Philharmonic at the United Nations' Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium.

The concert, which was around the time of the opening the UN General Assembly, drew more than 200 diplomats. U.N. personnel and members of New York's musical elite.



1995-09-sep-19-18-concert-50th-unga-ny-phil

Excerpt part for photo caption: Sri Chinmoy gave the opening dedication at the classical music celebration in honour of the 50th Session of the UN General Assembly, hosted by H.E. Ambassador Istvan Nathon, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the UN, with performances by members of the New York Philharmonic and others – 19 September

World Gratitude Day - 21 Sept

Beginning in 1977, World Gratitude Day was also celebrated by the Members and friends of the Peace Meditation Group at the UN. A special song “*World Gratitude Day*” was composed by Sri Chinmoy and performed by the Meditation Group Choir. They also participated on a number of occasions at the World Gratitude Day headquarters in NY at the special request of the day’s founder, Mrs. Edna Fuerth Lemle. She explained the origin of the Day on many occasions.

Following quote is from 1977 when Mrs. Lemle presented an award to Sri Chinmoy:

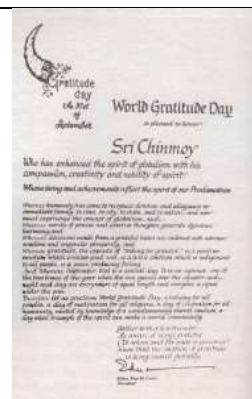
Each year the Board of Directors of World Gratitude Day presents an award to someone who we feel has done something outstanding in the spirit of Globalism. In the past we have honoured such distinguished individuals as Angie Brooks Randolph, first woman president of the United Nations General Assembly, Maurice Strong of Canada and the Nobel Prize Laureate, Rene Cassin. In addition we have honoured UNICEF and Japan, which, incidentally, was the first country to declare World Gratitude Day a national day of thanksgiving.

And so, I present this year’s World Gratitude Day Award (1977):

WORLD GRATITUDE DAY is pleased to honour Sri Chinmoy who has enhanced the spirit of globalism with his compassion, his creativity and his great nobility; whose being and achievements reflect the spirit of our Proclamation:

- WHEREAS, humanity has come to recognise devotion and allegiance to immediate family, to clan, to city, to state, and to nation, and now must experience the concept of Globalism; and
- WHEREAS, words of praise and positive thoughts generate dynamic harmony, and
- WHEREAS, decisions made from a grateful heart are endowed with intrinsic wisdom and engender prosperity; and
- WHEREAS, gratitude, the opposite of “taking for granted,” is a positive emotion which generates good will, is a basic emotion which is indigenous to all people, is a peace-engendering feeling;
- AND WHEREAS, September 21 is a special day. It is an equinox: one of the two times of the year when the sun passes over the equator and night and day are everywhere of equal length and everyone is equal under the sun;

THEREFORE let us proclaim World Gratitude Day, a holiday for all peoples, a day of meditation for all religions, a day of celebration for all humanity, united by knowledge of simultaneously shared emotion, a day when triumph of the spirit can make a world community.



The New Yorker Magazine of 8 October 1984 excerpt noted:

“World Gratitude Day, recognized by proclamation in thirty-eight States and two countries, falls each year at the time of the autumnal equinox and serves as a sort of secular, global Thanksgiving. In fact Mrs. Lemle got

the idea at a reception she attended at the United Nations in 1963 a few days before Thanksgiving. She asked the Ambassador from Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, if his countrymen would join in Thanksgiving, and he said he did not think his people would adopt an American holiday.

“Mrs. Lemle proposed the new Celebration, with a different date but the same feeling. ‘Straight away, I told Eleanor Roosevelt about it and asked her to start it,’ Mrs. Lemle said. ‘Eleanor said, ‘Edna, you start it.’ I said, ‘I don’t know how to start a holiday.’ ‘But start it she did, and it has survived, and that is something. Mrs. Lemle seems to belong to a slightly old-fashioned breed that has managed somehow to steer clear of cynicism—that citrus canker of human affairs.

“‘When you’re bothered, just stop and think of something to be grateful for- what it is doesn’t matter so much as the emotion,” she says and she is correct.

“Who comes to World Gratitude Day? Some followers of Sri Chinmoy, who is a religious leader, and some friends of Edna Lemle, and Richard Roffman, who has been a radio figure for 50 years and now works in TV... “I am grateful for the life I have lived” he told us...”

Sri Chinmoy: *I am accepting this with my heart's boundless gratitude, and this gratitude is something that is glowing and growing within me. Every day I offer to the Beloved Supreme only one thing: gratitude. Man's greatest gift to God is gratitude. Man's self-giving and his gratitude are one and the same.*

I am extremely grateful to you, Mrs. Lemle, for you are opening a new chapter in humanity's evolution. The world is in the process of evolution. You know the utmost significance of gratitude, and the awakened soul in you is awakening others. Gratitude is man's conscious oneness with his Beloved Supreme. I am sure that your soul has felt this supreme oneness with the Beloved Supreme and your soul has come to the fore to urge your illumined mind to offer this loftiest message to the world at large.

Gratitude in the inner world is nothing but self-expansion. It is through self-expansion that we become aware of our true reality, which is Infinity itself. Your contribution to the world at large, to the inner world especially, is momentous. As a seeker, I know that there is nothing on earth as valuable and significant as gratitude. In God's Eye there is nothing more meaningful and precious than man's gratitude. Therefore, to you, to the illumining soul in you, I wish to offer my boundless and ever-growing gratitude.

World Gratitude Day New York Headquarters – 21 September 1977 – appears in, *The Seeker's Mind*, published by Agni Press, 1978.



O World Gratitude Day

Composed on Sep. 21st, 1977

Lyrics:

O World Gratitude Day!
I pray for you, I pray,
Man's feeble climbing rays one with God's Vision-Play-Compassion: highest gift.
Gratitude: fastest lift.
Only satisfaction-need
Can feed man and God's need.

world-gratitude-day-song-score-1977-sep-21.jpg[/caption]

more at: <https://www.srichinmoypeacemeditationatun.org/1977/09/21/world-gratitude-day-1977/>

International Day of Peace - 21 Sept

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on 21 September (An alternate date near 21 Sep in accord with local preferences and custom has sometimes been chosen) . The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

Background

The International Day of Peace was [established](#) in 1981 by the UN General Assembly. It was first celebrated to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly Session each year (third Tuesday of September). Two decades later, in 2001, the General Assembly unanimously voted to move the Day to 21 September as a period of non-violence and cease-fire.

The United Nations invites all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities during the Day, and to otherwise commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace.

Peace Bell

A Peace Bell is rung during a ceremony at UN Headquarter in NY (sometimes observed a few days in advance of September 21) to announce that year's International Day of Peace. The Peace Bell was donated by the UN Association of Japan in June 1954. The actual date for the Bell ringing event is adjusted based on UN activities planned for that time frame.



1971-03-21-mar-SG-U-Thant-before-ring-Peace-Bell-UN-NY-ceremony-“Earth-Day”UN-photo-240556-crp



2020-09-17-sep-Melissa-Fleming-left-USGs-remarks-SG-Antonio-Guterresright-Peace-Bell-ceremony-UN-HQ-un-photo-845400-crp



2020-09-17-sep-SG-António-Guterres-rings-Peace-Bell-UN-NY_HQ-in-advance-Internat-Day-Peace-UN-photo-845461

3. *Invites* all Member States, organs and organizations of the United Nations system, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, peoples and individuals to commemorate in an appropriate manner the International Day of Peace, especially through all means of education, and to co-operate with the United Nations in the observance of that Day.

*77th plenary meeting
30 November 1981*

Day moved to 21 September for 2003 observance. It was previously celebrated to coincide with the Opening for the General Assembly on the Third Tuesday of September.

A/RES/55/28223 International Day of Peace The General Assembly, Recalling its resolution 36/67 of 30 November 1981, by which it declared that the third Tuesday of September, the opening day of the regular sessions of the General Assembly, shall be officially proclaimed and observed as International Day of Peace and shall be devoted to commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples, ... achieving the broadest possible awareness and observance of the International Day of Peace among the global community, Desiring to **draw attention to the objectives of the International Day of Peace, and therefore to fix a date for its observance each year that is separate from the opening day of the regular sessions of the General Assembly,**

1. Decides that, with effect from the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, (2003) **the International Day of Peace shall be observed on 21 September each year,** with this date to be brought to the attention of all people for the celebration and observance of peace;

2. Declares that the International Day of Peace shall henceforth be observed as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, an **invitation to all nations and people to honour a cessation of hostilities for the duration of the Day;** **Invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and non-governmental organizations and individuals to commemorate, in an appropriate manner,** the International Day of Peace, including through education and public awareness, and to cooperate with the United Nations in the establishment of the global ceasefire. 111th plenary meeting 7 September 2001

UN related Documents

- [Counting down to the International Day of Peace: What you can do to help](#)
- [General Assembly Resolution on International Year of Peace and International Day of Peace \(A/RES/36/67\)](#)
- [General Assembly Resolution on International Day of Peace \(A/RES/55/282\)](#)

Seven Minutes for World Peace

As of 2019 the Seven Minutes for World Peace which was originally observed since 1984 to coincide with UN Day 24 October was celebrated (for the first time) in various countries on 21 Sept. **Seven Minutes of Silence for peace** over many years also took place in various Secretariat offices one a week.

See also September events:

- Peace walk in Manhattan at [Part 3-11 Highlights Peace Walks for UN](#) and
- Inter faith Prayer breakfast at [Part 3-09 Interfaith Harmony & Shared Values](#)

UN Day Celebrated 24 October

Early runs on UN day –1976 ?

UN DAY RUN FOR UNICEF – 1976 Oct 24 Edinburgh to London

Sixteen young men ran a 450-mile relay from Edinburgh to London to raise money for UNICEF and promote the ideals of the	
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United Nations in conjunction with U.N. Day on 24 October. 1976

The runners were all students of Sri Chinmoy, who were inspired by his support for the United Nations. They ranged in age from 21 to 28, and came from all walks of life: student, printer, teacher, civil servant, and university Writer in Residence



Ms. Nansi Mansbridge, an Edinburgh Councillor, addresses the U. N . Day runners at the start of the run With her is Chris Black, a British Olympic hammer-thrower.

Captions: chose the best photos from www.srichinmoypeacemeditationatun.org/1976/10/24/u-n-day-run-for-unicef-1976-oct-24-edinburgh-to-london/



Mr. Ray Harrington presents the Declaration of Purpose to Mr. M. Popovic, Acting Director of the United Nations in London. Behind are (left to right) Lt. Colonel! D.S.F. Bult-Francis O.B.E., Director of UNICEF in London, and Mr. Eric Price-Holmes C.B.E., Chairman of the United Nations Association in London.



The runners present the cheque for UNICEF to Mr. Reg Prentice, Minister for Overseas Development.

1978 observance: "What does UN Day signify?"

On 24 October 1978 the Peace Meditation at the United Nations observed United Nations Day with a programme in the Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium. Sri Chinmoy made the following remarks on that occasion

“It signifies a day of **universal hope**, a day of universal **promise**, a day of universal **peace** and a day of universal **oneness**.

“**Hope brightens** humanity's present deplorable fate. **Promise encourages** humanity's speed, which embodies success and progress. **Peace enlightens** humanity's age-old ignorance. And **satisfaction, which is founded upon oneness**, the oneness-family that we would like to live in, will one day **dawn in our aspiring heart and our dedicated life**.

“To us, the United Nations is not a mere building, it is not a mere concept, it is not wishful thinking or even a dream.

“It is a reality which is growing, glowing and manifesting its radiance here, there, all-where, throughout the length and breadth of the world.

“All those who are sincerely crying for a oneness-family, according to their receptivity, are receiving light from the soul of the United Nations.

- comments by Sri Chinmoy, On 24 October 1978, Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium UN, NY, appears in : [The Inner Role Of The United Nations](#), Agni Press, 1993.

- for excerpts of the programme for the day see: [United Nations Day Observed -1978 Oct 23 : Liberia, Cyprus](#) which was included as part of the report to the Secretary-General 1978

UN is for all those who aspire – outgrowth of inner awakening

Each individual nation has aspiration of its own. Again, each individual nation has been blessed with seekers. Each nation has human beings who aspire for a better, more illumining, and more fulfilling world. These seekers have expressed their aspiration in and through various fields: spirituality, religion, philosophy, science, music, art, poetry and so forth. The United Nations is not only for the delegates and the representatives of the various nations. It is for all those who have aspired and do aspire and will always aspire.

If we say that the United Nations is the result of the twentieth century awakening, then we are mistaken. The United Nations is the outgrowth of the inner awakening of human beings from time immemorial.

- Sri Chinmoy, UN, NY 28 Nov 1975 (rd-9)

1983 UN DAY “together in efforts to achieve a world of oneness, peace and understanding”

UN (Oct. 28) – Celebrating the 38th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

A lunchtime crowd of 1000 people gathered at the UN NY Visitor's Plaza for UN Day ceremony sponsored by the Meditation Group on 28 October, 1983

Dr. Jorge Illueca, President of the General Assembly, delivered the following address:

“... let us rejoice together in our efforts to achieve a world of oneness, peace and understanding.”

“.. an opportunity to renew our commitment to the goals with which we began our journey. Thirty-eight years ago, with the signing of the Charter of the United Nations in San Francisco, an historical journey was begun toward a united world.

“...our world is still full of division and discord, far from its destination. It is true that the journey ahead of us is long and arduous, but that is no excuse for pessimism. On the contrary, this is the time for us to summon greater dynamism, great tenacity, so that we can together bring the promise of the future into the reality of today’

“...“... the beauty of our world depends on bringing together the full variety and abundance of peoples uniting our capacities and our will for continuous peace and progress. Let us take the United Nations to be the embodiment of our aspirations for justice, peace and progress in the world.



img466-un-day-1983-05-UN-Visitor-plaza-Pres-GA-Jorge-Illueca-Sri Chinmoy-

“I would like to express my gratitude to Sri Chinmoy and the members of the Peace Meditation at the United Nations for reminding us in so many ways, on so many occasions, of the need to pray for peace, to meditate for peace, to work for peace, to make peace a reality in our daily life. ...let us rejoice together in our efforts to achieve a world of oneness, peace and understanding.”

UN Day: Humanity's colossal oneness-dream ...a heart of oneness in a fullness home,

The celebration was opened with a brief meditation for peace by Sri Chinmoy, who offered the following soulful message:

“UN Day is the supreme victory of humanity's colossal oneness-dream. On UN Day the earth-consciousness consciously and soulfully prays to the universal and transcendental Pilot for Eternity's Peace, Infinity's Joy and Immortality's Perfection.

“UN Day has no earthbound mind, no division, no destruction. UN Day has only a Heaven-free heart, a heart of oneness in a fullness home, where the Lord's Peace, Light and Delight in infinite measure reign supreme.”

1984 UN day Song, Flowers, Meditation and Gigantic Cake.

UN Delegates and Mission, Secretariat and Agency staff celebrate the 39th birthday of the United Nations

Peace Meditation Choir Performs songs in honour of the United Nations:



Place Flowers around UN symbol on cake



1984-10-24-01-peace-walk-delegates-placing-flowers-on-giant-cake-before-final-ceremony-39th-anniv-crp



1984-10-24-24-peace-walk-final-cerem-Sri-Chinmoy-places-flower-front-giant-39th-anniv-Cake

Sri Chinmoy Leads Silent Meditation



1984-10-2-03-peace-walk-final-cerem-Sri-Chinmoy-leads-medita-front-giant-39th-anniv-Cake

1985 Ceremony 40th Anniversary - blended delegations and Secretariat, in recommitment to Charter

One example of the effect these various activities had beyond the meditation group members was expressed by the Special Advisor for the Fortieth Anniversary, on behalf of the Secretary-General

(receiving a copy of the Preamble to the Charter signed by country Delegates and Secretariat staff participants in the Peace Walk)

during the closing ceremony:

“You have blended the two elements - the delegations and the Secretariat, by making your recommitment to the Charter.

Your peace initiative has won the respect of all. It has been for all of us a source of inspiration.”

– Mr. Jean Gazarian



1985-10-00-01-oct-30-peace-walk-un-40th



2013 Concert for U.N. Day, Songs by Sri Chinmoy + Words of Secretary-Generals

24 October 2013, Concert in celebration of UN Day, featuring songs composed by Sri Chinmoy, performed by vocal and instrumental ensembles



Remarks by Dag Hammarskjöld, the second Secretary General of the U.N.

UN Day observances have traditionally included music. Following are excerpts from **Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld’s statement on 24 October 1960 – his last United Nations Day** – when the Philadelphia Orchestra performed Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony. I quote:

“...This concert is in celebration of United Nations Day and it has been felt that a few words may remind us of the purpose for which we have assembled....

*“On his road from conflict and emotion to reconciliation in this final hymn of praise, Beethoven has given us a confession and a credo which we, who work **WITHIN and FOR** this Organization, may well make our own....*

“The road of Beethoven in his Ninth Symphony is also the road followed by the authors of the Preamble of the Charter. It begins with the recognition of the threat under which we all live speaking as it does of the need to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war which has brought untold sorrow to mankind.

*“It moves on to a reaffirmation of faith in the dignity and worth of the human person. And it ends with the promise to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors and to **unite our strength** to maintain peace.*

“We are indeed still in the first movements. But...we have too much in common, too great a sharing of interests,...ever to weaken in our efforts to surmount the difficulties and not to turn the simple human values, which are our common heritage, into the firm foundation on which we may unite our strength and live together in peace....” – read by Adhiratha Keefe

Remarks by U Thant, the third Secretary General of the U.N.



– read by Pragati Pascale

U Thant also drew a parallel between music and the United Nations in his remarks on **United Nations Day, 24 October 1967**, during a concert in the General Assembly Hall by the Vienna Symphony Orchestra.

“At a time when international relations are marked by discord and disharmony, it is a pleasant respite to all of us to listen to the kind of music that we are hearing today.

“Such music not only pleases the ear, but also elevates our spirits. Besides, it also points to an important lesson. The functioning of a major orchestra requires cooperation on the part of the performers and leadership from its conductor....

*In the field of international relations, the performers are the member states. The score is the Charter of the United Nations. If we are to replace the present dissension by harmonious cooperation, we have to be faithful to the score: we have to observe not only the letter, **but the spirit of the Charter** in our international relations.*

Words from the Secretaries-General presented to guests:

Secretaries-General on United Nations Day	
<p>“The United Nations is – in fact as well as theory – indispensable to peace.” –Trygve Lie, United Nations Day, 1950</p>	<p>“The United Nations embodies the movement for peace. It is a movement which calls for the courage to understand the aspirations and interests of others. Above all, it calls for utmost and unreserved commitment. On United Nations Day, I appeal to all to make this commitment afresh.” –Javier Pérez de Cuellar, United Nations Day, 1982</p>
<p>“The United Nations was born out of a great hope and was inspired by expectations of a bright future. The United Nations stands today strengthened by the dramatic approach to universality.” –Dag Hammarskjöld, United Nations Day, 1960</p>	<p>“The United Nations is a work in progress. Just as our predecessors strive to give us a world organization capable of dealing with the challenges of the age, so our task is to prepare the United Nations of the twenty-first century.” –Boutros Boutros-Ghali, United Nations Day, 1996</p>
<p>“There is so much good in men and in nations. The interests that unite us are far more significant than those that divide us.” –U Thant, United Nations Day, 1970</p>	<p>“More clearly than ever, the United Nations represents the whole human family. And never has the human family needed the United Nations more than it does today... So let us cherish our United Nations. And let us give every human being a stake in its success.” –Kofi Annan, United Nations Day, 2002</p>
<p>“With the support of all the Governments and peoples of the world, our task is to go forward with determination to ensure a better life in larger freedom for all mankind.” –Kurt Waldheim, United Nations Day, 1980</p>	<p>“United Nations Day is a chance to recognize how much this invaluable Organization contributes to peace and common progress... We continue to show what collective action can do. We can do even more. In a world that is more connected, we must be more united. On United Nations Day, let us pledge to live up to our founding ideals and work together for peace, development and human rights.” –Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Day, 2013</p>



Other UN and International Days

Yoga, UN and International Day

Recognizing yoga's universal appeal, on 11 December 2014, the United Nations proclaimed 21 June as the International Day of Yoga by General Assembly resolution 69/131. The International Day of Yoga aims to raise awareness worldwide of the many benefits of practicing yoga.

2016 Event at NY HQ Yoga and the UN Culture of Peace.

The Sri Chinmoy Meditation Choir had the honour of performing arrangements of Sri Chinmoy's songs dedicated to the UN and peace at a programme entitled "**Yoga and the UN Culture of Peace.**"

The event was held at the UN Economic and Social Council Chamber 28 October 2016. Hosted by Ambassador Durga Prasad Bhattarai, the Permanent Representative of Nepal to the UN, the event was webcast live, and the video is also available on the UN website (webtv.un.org/meetings-events/watch/yoga-and-the-united-nations-culture-of-peace-program/5191247242001),

The choir opened the programme, after the Deputy Permanent Representative of Nepal, Mr. Nirmal Raj Kafle, offered a few remarks on behalf of Ambassador Bhattarai, declaring that the wealth of yoga belongs to humanity in general.



The choir started with a poem by Sri Chinmoy, followed by several of his songs dedicated to peace and to the UN, with arrangements by choir members.



Panel of speakers

2017 Quotes on Yoga for International Yoga Day, 21 June

In honour of IYD 2017, “Quotes on Yoga” were presented by Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations, in conjunction with the Sri Chinmoy Centre, an NGO affiliated with UN/DPI.

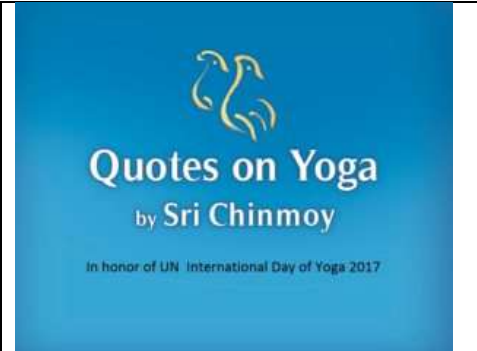
The **traditional yogic exercises** attempt to place the body in a state of receptivity in order to bring down peace and certain higher forces from above. – AUM, Vol.1, No..1, 1965 (AUM-12)

Yoga is union. It is the union of the individual soul with the Supreme Self. Yoga is the spiritual science that teaches us how the Ultimate Reality can be realised in life itself. - Yoga and the Spiritual Life: 1970. (YSL-13)

The very **aim of practising Yoga** is to have peace, peace of mind. When one acquires peace of mind, automatically one possesses indomitable inner strength. - Realisation-Soul and Manifestation-Goal, 1974. (RSG-15)

Yoga for who? Previously, even in India, the land where it has always been practised, Yoga was confined to the limited few. But now the book of Yoga is no longer sealed; it is open to all. - The Soul’s Evolution, 1976. (SE-50)

When we enter into the field of Yoga, we feel that the love and service we offer to mankind is not for others, but for us, for our enlarged part. There is no such thing as “others.” All are members of the same family. **University of Oxford, Keble College, 19 November 1970. The Mind Loves the Heart, The Mind Becomes the Heart, Part 1, 2003. (MLH-2)**

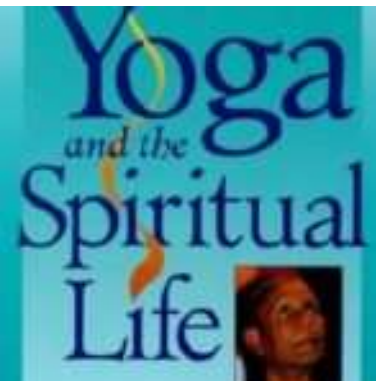


2018 events: Yoga for Peace, 4th IDY

Observances of the 4th International Day of Yoga at UN Headquarters in New York, held on 20 and 21 June, were organized by the Permanent Mission of India in association with the UN Department of Public Information, with the theme “**Yoga for Peace.**”

Singers from Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations were kindly invited by the Permanent Representative of India to the UN, Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin, to perform at the 20 June event, held on the North Lawn of UN Headquarters. The Choir, performed an arrangement of three of Sri Chinmoy’s songs, featuring the ancient Sanskrit universal message from the Upanishads, “Satyam eva jayate,” which translates as “Truth alone triumphs.”



<p>A composite of some of Sri Chinmoy's comments about yoga was shared before the musical presentation 20 June. The event was webcast on UN TV, with the musical performance starting at 46 minutes into the programme. Link for the full webcast. webtv.un.org/watch/yoga-session-with-yoga-masters/5800324484001/</p>		<p>When we practise Yoga, we try to enlarge our consciousness until the time comes when our consciousness pervades the length and breadth of the world. With our conscious awareness, we become one, totally one, with the universe. Transformation of the Ego, 1977 (TE-14)</p> <p>Yoga guides life for the experience of existence. You may call this a theoretical experience. Yoga guides life towards the fulfilment of existence. This you must call a practical experience. - Meditations: food for the soul, June 21, Agni Press, 1970 (MFS-172)</p>
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International Mother Language Day (IMLD)

International Mother Language Day was proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in November 1999 (30C/62). The UN General Assembly welcomed the proclamation of the day in its resolution A/RES/56/262 of 2002. On 16 May 2007, the UN General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/61/266 called upon Member States "to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world". By the same resolution, the General Assembly proclaimed 2008 as the International Year of Languages, to promote unity in diversity and international understanding, through multilingualism and multiculturalism and named UNESCO to serve as the lead agency for the Year.

Sri Chinmoy: The Language of Oneness in Diversity

Sri Chinmoy's vast outpouring of creativity continues to inspire and unite human beings of all nationalities. Complementing his dedication to the oneness of humanity is Sri Chinmoy's tireless **encouragement of each individual and each culture in the full expression of their uniqueness**. Indeed, he always maintained the greatest love for his native Bengali language and nearly 14,000 Bengali songs. A spiritual figure who **traveled the world to encourage seekers of all faiths and nationalities**, Sri Chinmoy wrote:

“During prayer and meditation, it is advisable to *speak to God in your own mother tongue* because the language that you learned right from birth has become inseparably one with your life-breath, which is all simplicity, sincerity, purity and divinity. So it is advisable, especially for seekers, to pray to God in the language they were brought up with. “Most of the time I speak to God in the Chittagong dialect which was spoken in my village, or in pure Bengali.”¹

What is more, during each of his Peace Concerts offered in various parts of the world, **Sri Chinmoy's students always sang the song he had composed to honour the unique qualities of the country they were visiting- and always the song would be translated into the country's mother tongue as well**. For Sri Chinmoy, oneness and diversity go hand in hand. As he wrote,

“When we become conscious of our unity, we feel that in the field of manifestation what appears to be diversity is really unity.”²

By loving and admiring another's language and culture as our own, very own, we add to the fragrance and beauty of humanity itself. Like a radiant diamond, when each language and each culture shines brightly, then humanity itself shines with a brilliant radiance

reference for above quotes:

*1 [Sri Chinmoy, *World-Destruction: Never, Impossible! Part 2*](#), Agni Press, 1994, in answer to Question: *In calling on God, should we use the pronoun 'You'? If not, what kind of language should we use?*

* 2 [Sri Chinmoy, *Transformation Of The Ego*](#), Agni Press, 1977, in answer to Question: How do you deal with violence and physical aggression?

International Mother Language Day, 23 Feb 2010 – Society of Foreign Consuls in NY.

IMLD promotes linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. For 2010 IMLD, members of the Meditation Group at the UN, Sri Chinmoy Center and World Harmony and Peace Run representatives participated in a cultural program hosted by the Society of Foreign Consuls in NY on 23 February. Founded in 1925, the Society represents the world's largest consular corps, comprising 110 Consulates, Consulates General and Honorary Consulates based in NY City. The meditation group singers performed and the Torch-Bearer award was presented to the society for its work in promoting international understanding and cooperation.



IMLD 21 February 2018,

Singers from Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations were invited by H.E. **Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh** to the UN, to perform at an International Mother Language Day celebration at UN Headquarters. Held in Conference Room 4, the programme was **co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Bangladesh, Colombia, Fiji and Kenya, in collaboration with the UN Secretariat and UNESCO Office in New York, as well as the Office of the Mayor of New York City.**

The Singers opened the Cultural Segment of the programme with the theme song for the 21st of February, Amar Bhaiyer, joined by a very special member of the group, Saleha Islam, the wife of Khourshedul Islam*, a freedom fighter in the Bangladesh Liberation Movement.

The Singers also performed a song by Sri Chinmoy dedicated to human rights, in honour of the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Human Rights.



Peace Meditation at the UN singers perform at NY UN Headquarters for International Mother Language Day celebration on 21 Feb 2018



At the end of the Cultural Segment, the Singers read a special poem by Sri Chinmoy in the original English, as well as several translations representative of the Mother Languages of some of the singers. The poem had been featured when diplomats joined in setting a Guinness World Record for the poem read in the most languages in a 24-hour period, in April 2014. The Choir closed with an arrangement of a song by Sri Chinmoy written in his native Bengali.

Paree Atkin (daughter of UN Staff member and former student of UN School) conducts the Singers in an arrangement of Chaire Rabi



(Edit Note: Should these next 2 parts s section be at beginning of IMLD Section ?)

IMLD Some History -of 21 Feb

The 21st of February is known internationally as International Mother Language Day, chosen because of events on that day in 1952, in Bangladesh (Then East Pakistan). It was a day of protest against a declaration that Urdu would be the official language of Pakistan. West Pakistanis predominantly spoke Urdu, while East Bengal spoke mainly Bangla — entirely different languages and scripts. A number of People died during protests. The Bengali Language Movement continued for years until a free and independent Bangladesh was declared, December 16th 1971.

Bangladesh 12 - 20 Jan 2009

The founder of the World Harmony and Peace Runs, Sri Chinmoy, was born in the area that is now part of Bangladesh. Several participants from various Runs in other countries and members of the Peace Meditation at the UN came to Bangladesh from 12 to 20 January 2009. During this period, they were able to share experiences in meetings with various groups in public presentations, at Universities and other locations.

13th Jan 2009 Dhaka The visitors were introduced to Dhaka with stops at several monuments from the Language events of 1952 onward as well as other historical and cultural sites. In the evening members attended an event at Shaurer Dhara music school, In honour of the director who is also a well known performer of Tagore’s music: Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya. There were many musical performances and comments by special guests, including Renata Lok-Dessallien, UN Resident Coordinator for Bangladesh, who has also attended the Peace Meditations at the UN in NY. These cultural events and discussions greatly added to the visitors understanding and appreciating of Bangladesh.



Renata Lok-Dessallien, United Nations, Resident Coordinator for Bangladesh, addresses the gathering, Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya is pictured on right.

Bangladesh National Memorial in Savar Dhaka

19 Jan 2009 (afternoon) the visitors proceeded to Bangladesh National Memorial in Savar Dhaka Near Jahangir Nagar University. Monument in memory of 3 million Bangladesh people who died in war of liberation in 1971. The group was escorted by Khourshedul Islam, who had been one of the freedom fighters in 1971. He trained outside the country and then served as a guerrilla commander. During revolution he had spoken to thousands of people at public events around Chittagong. Now living with his family in NY he met Sri Chinmoy and admired all his efforts for personal and community peace. A Bengali writer, appreciative of IMLD and cultural diversity, Khourshedul had also become supportive of the Oneness-Home Peace and World Harmony runs and encouraged the group to visit Bangladesh.



Khourshedul Islam, escorting the group, carrying the Peace Torch to the memorial. It was the first time he had his picture taken at the site. He explained the run and Peace torch to those who wished to join for picture.



UN International Day of Non-Violence,

Keynote Address by Ambassador P.A. Nazareth, 2 October 2012

A programme commemorated the International Day of Non-Violence on 2 October 2012 in the ECOSOC Chamber at UN Headquarters in NY. H.E. Mr. S.M. Krishna, External Affairs Minister of India, presided, and H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremic, President of the General Assembly, was the guest of honour. Ambassador P A Nazareth, author of the widely acclaimed book, *Gandhi's Outstanding Leadership*, delivered the keynote address on "Gandhi: The Non Violent Revolutionary," which featured a section highlighting Sri Chinmoy's work at the United Nations.

"Spirituality that is deeply rooted in Truth, Justice, Love and Universal Brotherhood could ... bring about the global spiritual renaissance which the revered U Thant firmly believed was an essential requisite for a real and enduring world peace. Sri Chinmoy's memorable quote about this is '**World Peace can be achieved when, in each person, the power of love replaces the love of power**'. - Ambassador P A Nazareth



While Ambassador P.A. Nazareth speaks about Sri Chinmoy's activities at the UN, Sri Chinmoy's photo is displayed on a large screen behind him in the ECOSOC Chamber. Sri Chinmoy had worked at the Indian Consulate under Ambassador Nazareth, before offering Peace Meditations for delegates and staff at UN Headquarters in New York

World Interfaith Harmony Week

The General Assembly:... "Proclaims the first week of February every year the World Interfaith Harmony Week between all religions, faiths and beliefs. Encourages all States to support, on a voluntary basis, the spread of the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in the world's churches, mosques, synagogues, temples and other places of worship during that week, based on love of God and love of one's neighbour or on love of the good and love of one's neighbour, each according to their own religious traditions or convictions." - UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/65/5, adopted 20 October 2010.

Early Support for Interfaith Harmony at the UN :

Sri Chinmoy was a deeply committed supporter of the global interfaith movement and the Peace Meditation (founded by Sri Chinmoy) at the United Nations in the early 1970s sponsored what may be some of the first interfaith programs at the UN. In July 1975 he led an interfaith prayer and meditation service for the UN Community in observance of the Host Country proclaimed "National Day of Prayer". The NY times reported the executive director of the Council of Churches of the city of New York called the event the "most representative gathering of religious leaders ever held in the city". The Peace Meditation collaborated with the Center for World Thanksgiving and organized interfaith Peace Walks, as well as observances of the anniversary of the Meditation Room and a well-attended annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast, hosted each year

by one of the Permanent Missions with that country's Ambassador presiding. Sri Chinmoy on a number of occasions offered an opening silent meditation at such events as the fifth **Spiritual Summit Conference of The Temple of Understanding**, held in New York and at the UN in October 1975.

"Spirituality is not merely tolerance. It is not even acceptance. It is the feeling of universal oneness. ... Our spiritual life firmly and securely establishes the basis of unity in diversity. Spirituality is not mere hospitality to others' faith in God. It is the absolute recognition and acceptance of their faith in God as one's own. " - Sri Chinmoy, July 1966, San Juan, Puerto Rico, printed in *Yoga And The Spiritual Life. The Journey of India's Soul.*, 1971. " (YSL-12)

Even before he founded the Meditation Group at the UN in 1970. in his first talk to the UN Community in 1968 he said:

"Let each religion play the role of a flower. Let us make a garland of these divine flowers..." – Sri Chinmoy, "The Song Universal," 26 November 1968, Church Center for the UN, in *The Garland of Nation-Souls*.

United for Culture of Peace Through Interfaith Harmony 2013-Feb-14

*An event in the General Assembly Hall to mark **World Interfaith Harmony Week (1-7 February)**. Entitled "United for a Culture of Peace Through Interfaith Harmony", was hosted by the President of the General Assembly; the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); and the Committee of Religious NGOs. It included statements by Assembly President Vuk Jeremić and Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, a World Peace Flag Ceremony, and song performances by singers from the group Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations*

see Video of singers for [first five minutes of UN web cast:](http://webtv.un.org/watch/united-for-a-culture-of-peace-through-interfaith-harmony/2165451739001/)
<http://webtv.un.org/watch/united-for-a-culture-of-peace-through-interfaith-harmony/2165451739001/>



Lyrics to Songs performed:

A new World of Peace

*A new world of peace, A new world of light,
A new world of height,
Can alone give me Satisfaction-delight.*

A moment's Truth, Peace, Love

*A moment's truth
Can and shall make the world beautiful.
A moment's peace
Can and shall save the world.
A moment's love*

Can and shall make the world perfect.

The Lord's Sun-Vision-Plan

U.N. , U.N., U.N. , U.N.
You are the Lord's Sun-Vision Plan.
We know your soul, its beauty's flow,
A world-body's translucent glow.

Use two top photo without song words on left?



Indonesia 2015 : Interfaith Harmony Week Observed

Members of the Peace Meditation at the UN visited the historic Goa Gajah Temple in the Gianyar Regency of Bali on 31 January 2015 to participate in an interfaith program in observance of the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week. Hindu priest Ida Pedanda Gde Wayahan Bun led a rice offering and moment of reflection. An international choir performed some of Sri Chinmoy's songs The event was sponsored by the International Foundation for Dharma Nature Time co-founded by Diane Butler and Suprpto Suryadharmo. . In addition to drawing attention to Interfaith Harmony week, it was also a Pre-Parliament Event of the Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions.



Pictured is Diane Butler holding the torch with co-chair of the Interfaith Center of New York, Kusumita Pedersen as Director of Public Diplomacy for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Al Busyra Basnur (left) and Suprpto Suryadharmo looked on.

For more Inter faith Activities see: [Part 3-09 Interfaith Harmony & Shared Values](#)

International Day of Happiness (IDH) – 20 March

The General Assembly of the United Nations in its resolution 66/281 of 12 July 2012 **proclaimed 20 March the International Day of Happiness** recognizing the relevance of happiness and well-being as universal goals and aspirations in the lives of human beings around the world and the importance of their recognition in public policy objectives. The resolution was initiated by **Bhutan**, a country which recognized the value of national happiness over national income since the early 1970s and famously adopted the goal of Gross National Happiness over Gross National Product

The UN invites Member States, international and regional organizations, as well as **civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals**, to observe the International Day of Happiness in an appropriate manner,

including through education and public awareness-raising activities. See more history, background and links at: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/happiness-day>

Members of the Peace Meditation Group at the UN participated 2 events calling attention to First IDH 2013

A Celebration of the First IDH at UN Headquarters 2013

New York. 19 March. 2013. Aware that the increase of happiness depends also on one's spirit, the United Nations SRC Society of Writers sponsored the launch of an audio book by Sri Chinmoy on the eve of the first UN International Day of Happiness at the UN Headquarters in New York. Among the 17 outstanding individuals who read a chapter of the new audio book *The Jewels of Happiness* are Nobel Peace Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu; Grammy Award winning singer and songwriter Roberta Flack; Olympic legend Carl Lewis, Tony and Emmy award winning actress Judith Light; Russian singer and superstar Boris Grebenshikov; and former President of UNESCO General Conference Davidson Hepburn. Renowned composer Philip Glass performed on the piano. Cathy Oerter, co-founder of Art of the Olympians and wife of legendary Olympian Al Oerter, and Ashrita Furman, holder of the most Guinness World Records, read from the book live. A special message from peace activist Ela Gandhi, granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, and former Member of Parliament in South Africa, was also read out.



Legendary composer and pianist Philip Glass performs at the United Nations in celebration of the first International Day of Happiness and Sri Chinmoy's 'The Jewels of Happiness' audio book launch.



Peace Meditation Singers share happiness songs at the United Nations in celebration of the first International Day of Happiness and Sri Chinmoy's 'The Jewels of Happiness' audio book launch.

Over 500 United Nations ambassadors, delegates, staff and members of NGOs were present at the launch. "These sweet gems of wisdom by my dear friend Sri Chinmoy are timeless truths full of encouragement, love and goodness," Nobel Peace Laureate, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, said in a video message. "Sri Chinmoy was a pioneer in forging a grand alliance of hearts and minds for the culture of peace," said Anwarul Chowdhury, former UN Under-Secretary-General, Special Advisor and Ambassador of Bangladesh to the UN for many years, in his introduction. For more information please visit: www.jewelsofhappiness.com

Sharing Happiness – Queens, NY Museum of Art – in Honour of IDH 2013

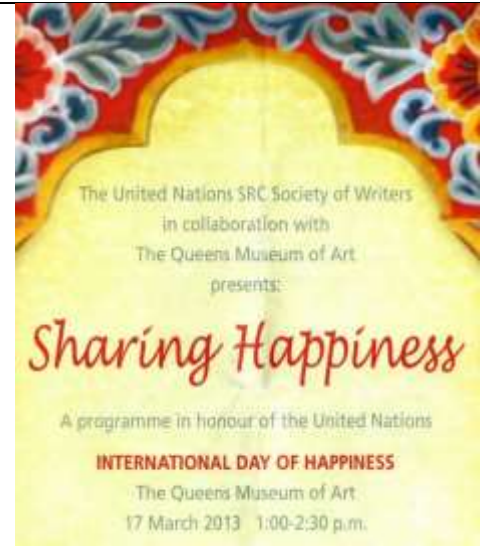
Members of the Peace Meditation Group at the UN were happy to support the "Sharing Happiness" programme in honour of the first UN IDH at The Queens Museum of Art; 17 March 2013

In addition to Cathy Oeter and Ashrita Furman who later spoke at the UN programe on 19th March (shared above) the event at the Queen Museum included:

Mei-Mei Berssenbrugge was born in Beijing and grew up in Massachusetts. She is the author of twelve books of poetry, including Empathy (Station Hill Press), I Love Artists (University of California Press) and The Lit Cloud with artist Kiki Smith (Galerie Lelong). Her most recent collection, Hello, the Roses, is forthcoming from New Directions Press.

Ram M. Fishman holds a PhD in Sustainable Development from Columbia University and an M.Sc. in Physics from the Weizmann Institute of Science. He visited Bhutan for workshops on Gross National Happiness and on the emerging field of “happiness economics”. (Editors Note: On a break before completing his advanced research and degree, R.M.F spent some months working in the UN community. During that period he attended programmes sponsored by UN SRC Society of Writers and regular meetings of Sri Chinmoy: the Peace Meditation at the UN.

Bhikshuni Weisbrot, a staff member of the UN Development Programme, is President of the UNSRC Society of Writers and Co-editor of “Happiness the Delight Tree”, an anthology of Contemporary International Poetry.



Note: The **Queens Museum of Art** was the site of the UN General Assembly from 1946-1950, prior to the completion of the UN Headquarters Building in Manhattan.

Nayak Polissar, PhD (moderator) is the founder of The Mountain-Whisper-Light Statistics, a consulting firm that carries out medical research in collaboration with universities and foundations. He has been named an Honorary Distinguished Citizen of Washington State.

International Day of Happiness, March 20 2014

Members of the Peace Meditation Group at the UN helped produce or distribute cards In support of IYD 2014



Paintings for Happiness at the United Nations, 2018

An Exhibition of Paintings for Happiness was on display at the UN from 19 March-6 April 2018, kindly sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the UN, in cooperation with the Jharna-Kala Art Foundation and the Sri Chinmoy Centre. The exhibit was in honour of the “**International Day of Happiness**,” a UN initiative inspired by the King of Bhutan, in which the UN General Assembly **declared 20 March** as the International Day. Mr. Karma Sonam Tshosarm, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bhutan, offered opening remarks. Daw Aye Aye Thant, daughter of the third UN Secretary-General U Thant and President, U Thant Institute, spoke and offered a painting by her granddaughter for the exhibit. On view was a mixed media exhibition comprised of a number of large canvases of art by renowned artist Sri Chinmoy, and the “Kids to Kids” happiness paintings by children from around the world. Several media outlets covered the event, and the UN itself tweeted out photos of the exhibit to their 20 million twitter followers to promote the International Day of Happiness.



Some Members of Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations gather at the Exhibit after a meditation meeting at the UN on 27 March 2018



Participants in the 20 March Opening Reception of the Exhibition of Paintings for Happiness at the UN hold the Peace Torch. From left to right: Cathy Oerter, Chair of Board of Directors, Art of the Olympians; Salil Wilson, Executive Director of the Sri Chinmoy Oneness-Home Peace Run; Karma Sonam Tshosarm, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Bhutan to the United Nations; Daw Aye Aye Thant, daughter of third UN Secretary-General U Thant and President of the U Thant Institute; Ranjana Ghose, Exhibit Curator and Director, Jharna-Kala Art Foundation; Nilima Silver, Programme Coordinator, Sri Chinmoy: The Peace Meditation at the United Nations; Kritagyata Nicholls, Coordinator of “Kids to Kids” International; and Nayana Hein, Sri Chinmoy Poetry Festival Organizer.

Human Rights Day; 10 December

UN Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights

The term “**human rights**” was mentioned seven times in the UN's founding Charter, making the promotion and protection of human rights a key purpose and guiding principle of the Organization. In 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights brought human rights into the realm of international law. Since then, the Organization has diligently protected human rights through legal instruments and on-the-ground activities see more at [un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/index.html](https://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/index.html) The [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](https://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/index.html). has been translated into 500 languages. Find it here in more than [500 languages](https://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/index.html) [ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Pages/SearchByLang.aspx](https://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/protect-human-rights/index.html)

Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December — the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (UDHR): a milestone document proclaiming the inalienable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Available in more than [500 languages](#), it is the most translated document in the world. More at un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day

Human Rights Day Programme 09 Dec 1977

On 9 December 1977 the Meditation Group sponsored an observance at U.N. Headquarters of **Human Rights Day**, featuring the dedication of the song “**O Human Rights**,” written by Sri Chinmoy who also spoke about the meaning of Human Rights Day.

Human Rights Day, what is it? Is it a day of hope? If so, what is hope? Hope is tomorrow’s earth-illuminating reality founded upon humanity’s purity-heart.

Human Rights Day, what is it? Is it a day of promise? If so, what is promise? Promise is constant self-giving.

Human Rights Day, what is it? Is it a day of achievement? If so, what is achievement? Achievement is man’s complete perfection in the inner world and man’s total satisfaction in the outer world..



Lyrics to O Human Rights:

*O Human Rights Divine!
In harmony-world you shine.
You are the voice of Light
And blue Perfection-Height.
Yours is the supreme role
To change the cosmos-dole.
You are the only strength
Of Heaven’s Vision-length.
Division, bondage, doom,
No more—
All oneness-bloom.*



Statement from Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, UN High Commissioner for Refugees:

I remember back in the early sixties when I was on mission in what was then still called the Congo. At that time a group of refugees from Rwanda had arrived in the province of North Kivu in the most isolated and inaccessible area covered with virgin forest. We traveled hundreds of kilometers over dirt track in our Land Rovers with their UN symbols. When we finally arrived, what struck me was not only their extreme need and their tragedy, but their reaction to us. They could not believe that someone had come all that way, had found them, that an organisation called the United Nations which was so far away was there to help them. Fortunately, we were able to help, just as we have been able to help millions in all parts of the world who through no fault of their own have been forced to flee their homes.



presented by Mr. Virendra Dayal, Regional Representative for the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees:

Congressman Charles W. Whelan, Jr. United States delegate to the 32nd General Assembly:

The efforts of both the executive and legislative branches of the United States government in the field of human rights have the overwhelming support of the American people. We in the United States, however, feel that our bilateral initiatives undoubtedly would be more effective if international bodies were to conduct complementary activities. Thus, we hope the global institutions such as the United Nations will expand their undertakings in the area of human rights. The efforts of the Meditation Group and similar organizations must be continued and indeed accelerated if this objective is to be realized. You are to be congratulated on the fine work you already have done in generating awareness for human rights. But our concern must never flag for those who have been arbitrarily imprisoned, tortured or discriminated against in any country of the world.



Mr. Brady Tyson, Advisor, US Mission to the UN: I address you in the Meditation Group not only in the accents of an American Texan, but also in the language of a Methodist preacher, because, like my boss, (Ambassador) Andrew Young, I am first and foremost a preacher. - ...Sons and daughters of Thine, we know that Thy Will once again will send us out into this world, that we might: protect the dignity of all persons; always be open to the hurts of others and we must once again cry unto Thee for help and for strength. Thy Grace that will give us the tranquility and the peace and the strength to overcome the evil in this world with the power of Thy Love.



Dr. Robert Muller. Deputy Under-Secretary-General:

Institutions were created originally for the good of the people. Nations come to this house and speak about human rights. Well, then they must be reminded of the first and most sacred of all human rights: the right to life and the right not to kill. Perhaps if we approach the whole question of human rights and disarmament from the fundamental principle of reverence for life, we might achieve some progress. As a humanist and as a member of the human race who has seen so many killings and violations of basic human rights during his life, I just cannot conceive and accept the idea of a peaceful and orderly planet of armed nations. As we approach the special session of the General Assembly on disarmament, I would therefore hope that nations will be reminded most forcefully of this foremost, fundamental, sacred and inalienable right and obligation of all human beings on this planet: “Thou shall not kill, not even in the name of a nation.”



Universal Declaration of Human Rights – excerpt at USA Independence Day Observance –Jul 1977

On 4 July 1977, Sri Chinmoy was invited as leader of the Meditation Group at the UN, to read from the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and lead a short meditation in an Independence Day Service on the theme of human rights held in New York City’s historic Trinity Church. Other readings by inter-denominational clergy included excerpts from President Carter’s Inaugural Address, a section from the United States Constitution and additional national and religious statements



The Preamble and Articles 1, 2 and 18 from the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights that were read by Sri Chinmoy follow.

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world ...Now, therefore,THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY proclaims THIS UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of the Member States themselves and among the people of territories under their jurisdiction .

Article 1. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status . . .

Article 18 . Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Human Rights Day Programme 1978 Dec 08

On 8 December 1978, Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the UN sponsored an observance of Human Rights Day in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium. The programme was opened with silent meditation led by Sri Chinmoy and the singing of the song “O Human Rights” by the Meditation Group singers

Mr. Rikhi Jaipal, Permanent Representative of India to the UN: One feels a sense of exhilaration every time one reads the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is a great landmark in the evolution of man. At the same time one also wonders whether the entire range of human rights promised to us can be realised fully. I have no doubt that the human rights movement has acquired a logic and momentum of its own that could lead on to the building of one interdependent world, a world where reason and justice will prevail. Of course, on the way to that world man may have to make heavy sacrifices, because it is not yet in the nature of man to make the right choices by peaceful means. This makes one ask a fundamental question about the nature of the human being and his potential. I do believe that if one tries to preserve one’s rights at the expense of others’ rights, it leads to violations of human rights. The only way to promote a general respect for human rights is to become aware of oneself and to identify oneself with others. This deeper awareness can come only through regular meditation. The most important human right is the right to be human. Without it, other rights cannot have any real value or meaning.



Mr. K.F. Nyamekye, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations: The celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights should be an occasion for re-examination of our method for achieving the goals of the Declaration. This year’s celebrations should offer us the opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the cause of our unfortunate brothers and sisters and join in the international mobilization for the eradication of apartheid and racial discrimination once and for all. We believe that the denial of all forms of rights and fundamental freedoms everywhere and under whatever circumstances is intolerable. Every individual is a complete entity and should have the right to enjoy the basic human rights for the fulfilment of his or her full self .



Mr. B. Ramcharan, Assistant to the Director, United Nations Division of Human Rights, Geneva: It is imperative to recognize our common humanity. Tolerance and understanding flow naturally from acceptance of our common humanity. We should also pledge ourselves to the concept of human solidarity, because it cannot be the conception of our Maker that some of us should live in luxury and some in squalor. We should by personal standards of conduct be an example to others. If there are violations of human rights in any parts of the world, we should concern ourselves with them and speak out; When we speak about human rights, we are not talking in general terms about vague problems or ideas. We are talking about individual human beings who have problems that are real to them. I think this is a time for individual commitment and by example and effort to bring about the full realisation of the Declaration’s objectives and principles.



The programme closed with the song “All Men Are Created Equal” performed by the singers and a reading from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Lyrics to “All Men are Created Equal”

All men are created equal.
Not some men.
Not white men. All men. America, rise up
and come home.

Words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr
Music by Sri Chinmoy

Words by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr
Music by Sri Chinmoy

(♩ = 69) Moderate-Fast

All men are cre--a--ted e-----qual-----,
Not some-- men, not white men-----,
all men----- A-----me-ri-ca,
rise----- up----- and-----
come----- home-----.

Examples of support for a UN Proclaimed year:

1979 the International Year of the Child

1979 was proclaimed a International Year of the Child, In previous years members of Meditation Group at the UN had already some experience in supporting events for the UN and UNICEF within the UN community in NY (see section 3. 04 UN Organization and Staff). Sri Chinmoy had also previously encouraged his students around the world to support appropriate efforts in their local communities. The meditation group later highlighted some of these for others to emulate. For example



UNICEF Bazaar in UN Secretariat for IYC - Opened by ASG for IYC - Oct 1977

(Date 1977-78?) The Meditation Group held a Bazaar at UN New York Headquarters in honour of the international Year of the Child. Sri Chinmoy, offered a silent meditation for the success of IYC, which has been declared for 1979.

Dr. Aldaba-Lim, Assistant Secretary-General, who was appointed Special Representative for the I Y C, then spoke and cut the ribbon to open the Bazaar.

Dr. Lim cuts the ribbon and graciously offers the decoration to Sri Chinmoy.

Guest included staff and delegates from many countries as well as the Executive Director of UNICEF Harry Labouisse .

Members of the Meditation Group sang Sri Chinmoy’s **song dedicated to UNICEF**. which has been requested by the General Assembly to act as the co-ordinating agency for the activities of the IYC.



editors to choose best photos for this



Painting dedicated to IYC by Representative of Government of India and world tour

27 March 1979, as an expression of the Government of India 's oneness with the cause of the International Year of the Child, H.E. Dr. **Rikhi Jaipal**, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, presented to Assistant Secretary-General Dr. Estefania Aldaba-Lim, Special Representative for IYC, a painting selected from the works of Sri Chinmoy. **Mrs Lim**: “While the United Nations tries to focus during the International Year of the Child on the immense and

unmet needs of children all over the world, especially in the developing world we seem to forget one very important dimension: the beauty, truth and joy of childhood. I believe this important occasion under the sponsorship of the Meditation Group, is a reminder. For in the very objectives of your Group you bring to the hearts of all of us who serve the cause of the United Nations, that particular dimension of spirituality: the caring, the commitment to spread love and understanding. We hope the Year of the Child will be instrumental in this. As this gift to the IYC Secretariat, which I represent, travels around inspiring people to think of the beauty and joy of childhood...as this painting travels, it will bring about the greater consciousness which we in the Secretariat are clearly committed to. We wish you continued success in your "magnificent obsession" to spread love, caring and commitment, to spread an important peace which we all desire in the United Nations.



Ambassador Jaipal unveils the painting for IYC and presents it to Dr. Lim on behalf of the Indian Government, as the artist Sri Chinmoy looks on.



IYC at USA National Visitor Center in Washington DC. Geraldine Ferraror, USA Parks Dept.

On 23 May, 1979 the Meditation Group was invited to join with the U.S. National Park Service to honour the International Year of the Child in a **reception and tree planting ceremony held at the National Visitor Center in Washington**. The programme coincided with the opening of a **two-month exhibit in the Visitor Center of Sri Chinmoy's paintings, dedicated to IYC** and sponsored by the Park Service. The reception included remarks by **representatives of the Park Service** and the **IYC Secretariat**, and by **Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro**, as well as a short meditation by **Sri Chinmoy**.

Under-Secretary of the Interior **James A. Joseph** unveiled a tree dedicated to the **International Year of the Child** with help from a child. Attached was a plaque with a quote by the **Secretary of the Department**



of the Interior, Cecil D. Andrus, as well as Sri Chinmoy's IYC song.



Fourth and fifth graders from the Chevy Chase Elementary School Choir sang Sri Chinmoy's "This Is My Year," and the Meditation Group Singers performed other UN Songs. Later Sri Chinmoy offered an esraj concert.

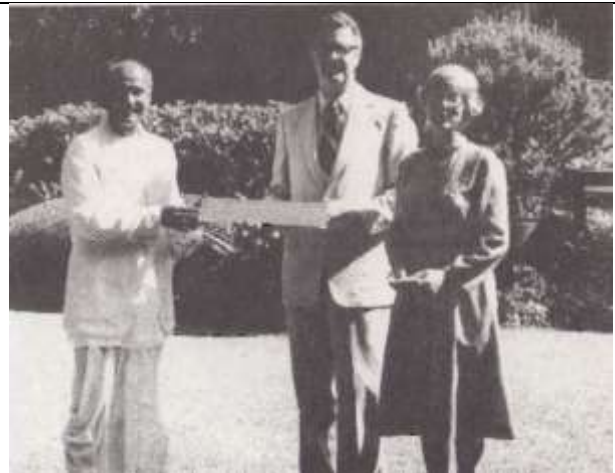
Mr. Loren Hart, aged 6, shakes hands, after unveiling the commemorative plaque for dedication of "Children's Tree."



IYC in Washington DC Park and Garden in California

On **4 October 1979** the United States National Park Service and Sri Chinmoy Meditation at the United Nations dedicated a plaque to the International Year of the Child. which was placed in President's Park in Washington, D.C. On the plaque is a quote from Secretary of the Interior **Cecil D. Andrus**, "Caring for children means caring for the natural world they will inherit." plus **Sri Chinmoy's song dedicated to IYC.**

A small, sunny area of ten-acre Blake Gardens, of the University of California, Berkeley, was **dedicated 1 June 1979** as a "Meditation Garden" in honour of the International Year of the Child. Sri Chinmoy inaugurated the area with a meditation preceded by the singing of "This Is My Year." A bench will be placed in the area facing the plaque on which the words to the song are engraved



Sri Chinmoy, Professor Robert Tetlow, Director of the Department of Landscape Architecture, and Mrs. Saxon, wife of the President of the University of California, Berkeley.

UN Ambassadors at Gallery in Manhattan in support of IYC,

14 August 1979, the Mission of the Republic of Panama to the UN and the Meditation Group at the UN sponsored a reception in commemoration of the International Year of the Child, which was held at the Jharna-Kala Gallery on Madison Avenue.

Distinguished speakers from varied Permanent Missions offered brief remarks on the spirit behind the Year of the Child as well as expressions of solidarity and their commitment to the world's children.

The Jhama-Kala Gallery was at the time displaying among its collection the painting created as a special tribute to the Year of the Child by Sri Chinmoy.



Honored Guests from various country missions to UN at Gallery Reception for IYC

The programme also included a performance of Sri Chinmoy's song. "This Is My Year, by a children's choir and Meditation Group Singers.

[Song Dedicated to IYC and Children's Contest](#) - THOUSANDS SING FOR IYC

Thousands of children across the globe sang in celebration of their Year, in children's choir contests conducted in conjunction with October U.N. Day activities. "This Is My Year" by Sri Chinmoy was chosen by the organizers of the competition, who invited choirs to enter their cassette tape recordings of the piece. First place winners in the contests were:



National champions

Members of the fifth grade choir at Canton Street School, first place winners in the International Year of the Child "This is my Year" song competition, are (from left, front row) Elsa Olivo, Kristy Elliott, Stephanie Craig, Alena Shumbers, Angela Amador, Melissa McDougall, Lillie Hernandez, Rhonda Ruiz, John Shumbers, Jason Ullmann, Kevin Yankovsky, Harry Felder, Drew Sharp, Cliff Cronop; (middle row) Lori Sandell, Christi Brandt, Shelley Kalmus, Jane Belasquez, Jennifer Delgado, Elizabeth Jalufka, Joan Ullmann, Lisa Jones, Susan Allison, Allan Bock, Douglas Rachunek, Kenneth Phynon, Lloyd White; (back row) Angela Epps, Sherry Ramsey, Jennifer Thomas, Julie Carlson, Sandra Zahn, Shelley Koehler, Kris Hughes, Lisa Rugeley, Jay Holcomb, Dwayne Sablatura, Kyle Dean, Aldwyn Lathon, Tommy Little and John Bevenside. Not pictured are choir members Brenda Harta, Leslie Dalton and Madeline Haynes, director Kay Bollom and assistant director and accompanist Margaret Wilcox.

- the Fifth Grade Choir at Canton Street School in Wharton, Texas, U. S.A. and
- the Junction Park Primary School Choir in Brisbane, Australia.

This is my year. This is my Year! Lyrics:

*This is my year, this is my year!
I am the world-child, God-prize dear.*

My dreams are my parents' pride supreme. In me they are the fulfilled scheme.

Heaven's joy, earth's peace I give. Forever, everywhere I live.

[Composed in honour of the International Year of the Child, 1979]



"It is a pleasure to be involved in something as global and worthwhile as this project. With regard to the text - all I can say is that it was written by someone with the greatest insight and understanding possible." - Kay Bollom, Canton Street Elementary School, Wharton, Texas

Proclamations, Athletic and other events around the world for IYC

In a **worldwide celebration of IYC**, young men and women across the globe cycled, ran, sang, and performed to call attention to the Year, often in conjunction with UN 34th Anniversary Day observances. Inspired by the early IYC activities of the Meditation Group at the UN and Si Chinmoy's enthusiastic encouragement leading up to 1979 IYC, students of Sri Chinmoy in the USAs, Canada, Europe and Australia called attention to the importance of IYC, for 1979, and the future. Below are brief accounts of energetic and dedicated efforts.

USA

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS: On **1 July 1979** students of Sri Chinmoy participated in Boston 's Year of the Child parade. In the afternoon they performed the "This Is My Year" and "Welcome" songs to open up IYC ceremonies at Waterfront Park, sponsored by the Mayor 's Office for Cultural Affairs.

On **UN Day**, they held a 34-mile relay run, beginning with a ceremony outside the State House attended by UN Day coordinator; President of the Greater Boston-Massachusetts UNs Association. At Boston City Hall they performed "This Is My Year," before covering the Boston Marathon course plus an additional eight miles along the Charles River to end at the State House.



UN Day Runner hands baton to Boston Superintendent of Schools and UN Day Coordinator for the Boston Area.

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS: Mayor Jane Byrne declared 20 July 1979 "**Year of the Child Day**," to mark a 500-mile nonstop bicycle relay from **Chicago to Springfield, Illinois**, and back, held to celebrate IYC. The cyclists began on the 20th and completed the relay 42 hours later. In Springfield, IYC officials and a Governor's representative joined the cyclists in ceremonies for IYC.

For UN Day, the team took the opportunity to get back on their bicycles, cycling 265 miles nonstop through Chicago and **sixty-four neighbouring communities**, drawing **proclamations and letters of recognition for IYC** . A selection of these proclamationa follows.



IYC observance in Springfield. (Illinois State Capitol).

HONOLULU, HAWAII: On **29 December** 1979 a performing troupe staged an International Year of the Child puppet show and sing-a-long for children at the main public library in Honolulu.

MIAMI, FLORIDA: Runners added to the UN Association celebration of **UN Day** with a 34-mile UN Run for Peace, in conjunction with a UN luncheon held in Miami's prestigious Omni International Hotel.

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA: The Sri Chinmoy Centre cosponsored a **children's run in honour of the IYC** along with the Mid-Atlantic AAU and Olney Kiwanis Club. The Age-Group Championships in Cross Country drew approximately one hundred top-seated young runners.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA: IYC supporters took part in the "Celebrate Youth" festival, sponsored by the City of Phoenix, on **10 and 11 November**. Information on IYC was provided and "**This Is My Year**" was performed by the Marcos de Niza High School Choir. On **24 October** runners held a 34-mile relay;and presentation in honour of IYC

to Mayor Harry Mitchel. The Centre sponsored a UN Day programme at **Arizona State University**, with participation from **Phoenix Indian High School**; IYC Coordinator for Arizona; and Governor's UN Day Chairman.

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND: The 34th anniversary of the UN was marked a 34-mile relay walk held on 24 October. Officials in areas around the city proclaimed "UN Day" or offered a certificate of recognition.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA: 34-mile peace run on a specially lit track to commemorate UN Day 24 October.

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA: 34-kilometre relay run, dedicated to the International Year of the Child.

SEATTLE. WASHINGTON: Children and adults alike joined in a 34-kilo metre bicycle race (relay?) to celebrate the International Year of the Child. Spirits were high despite the rainy weather.

WASHINGTON. D.C.: A half-hour radio broadcast on 24 October drew attention to UN Day with a programme of music and readings about the UN and its quest for inner and outer peace.

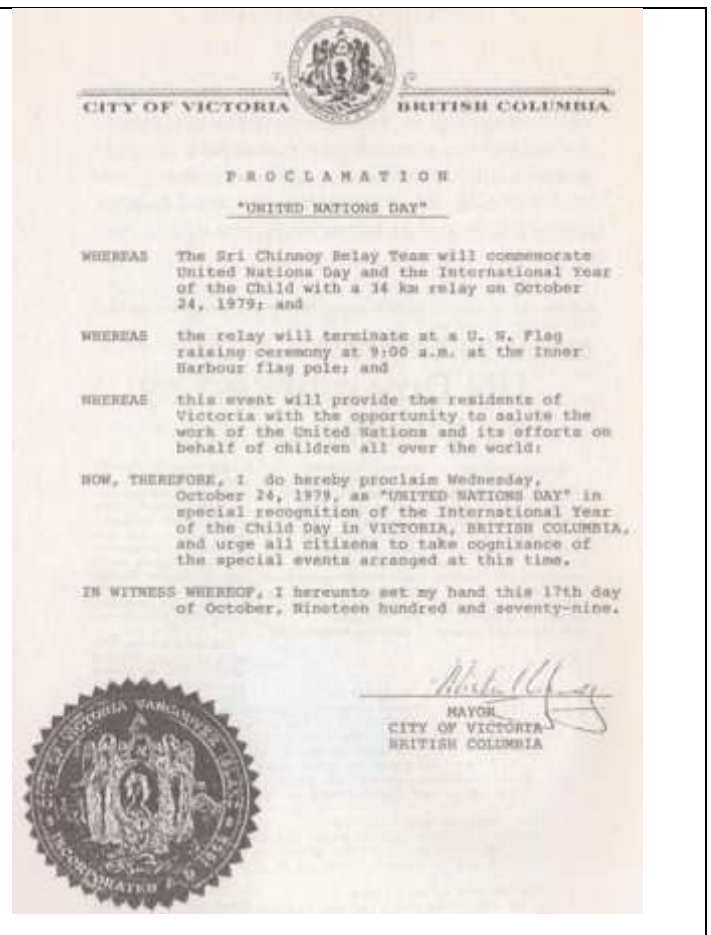
Canada:

HALIFAX: 34-kilometre relay run was launched by the chairperson for the local IYC Committee, Mr. Ray Amirault, the morning of 24 October.

En route Premier Buchanan of Nova Scotia and Mayor Morris of Halifax signed a proclamation declaring it UN Day on behalf of the people of Nova Scotia and the city of Halifax .

MONTREAL : A 34-kilometre run around the city marked UN Day in Montreal. Ceremonies were held at UNICEF Committee.. The relay ended at a special UN flag raising ceremony at Place Ville Marie, presided over by UNA President. In the evening about fifty children were entertained with a special "**Music for Children**" programme in honour of IYC. Children learned "This Is My Year" and other songs, and were then treated to an IYC puppet show

VICTORIA, VANCOUVER: Mayor proclaimed "U.N. Day" for a 34-kilometre IYC run, which culminated in televised ceremonies with Victoria alderman, UNA President and UNICEF Representative. A newspaper article and proclamation also were part of day.




United Kingdom

<p>IPSWICH, SUFFOLK: UN Day had a children's 34-mile bicycle relay for IYC and 34-mile relay run. as described in the Evening Star article.</p> <p>Twenty children Choir of School of Jesus and Mary sang "This Is My Year" on the local radio station.</p>	
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GLASGOW, SCOTLAND: Newspaper and radio covered a 34-lap run (about 8 miles) around George Square, which led into the UNA official ceremony on 24 October. Before UN flag was raised over Town Hall, the Lord Provost thanked the runners and expressed how glad he was to see young people take an interest in the UN.

Australia

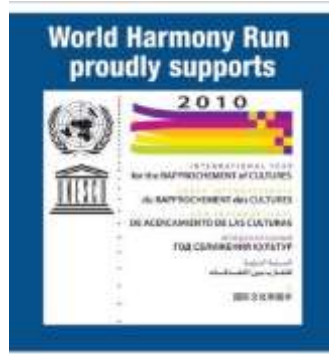
<p>PERTH: A UN "Run for Peace" organised on 21 October drew over fifty Perth runners for a 10.5 kilometre run (6 miles). The run, was started by the famous Australian miler, Herb Elliott. UNA Executive Director letter of appreciation stated: "It certainly was a stimulating sight to see over 50 young people full of vigour and vision setting out on the course and promoting such a cause as UN".</p>	
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International runs associated with UN special years (could also be under 3-12 Sports and Athletics?)

Members of the Peace Meditation at the UN have during personal annual leave from their regular duties many times joined efforts of the World Harmony and Peace Runs which had special focus. by the UN , UNESCO and other International organizations.

Culture of Peace and 2010 International Year Rapprochement of Cultures

<p>The International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures was designated by the United Nations and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). "The main goal of the International Year will be to demonstrate the benefits of cultural diversity by acknowledging the importance of the transfers and exchanges between cultures and the ties forged between them since the dawn of humanity." - UNESCO Plan for 2010.</p>		<p>Children pointing to the 6 official UN languages on the 2010 run banner carried in locations around the world calling attention to International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures</p>
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Year of Forests and Year of Youth 2011.
About years



Year of Youth (August 2010 to August 2011) theme of Dialogue and Mutual Understanding
UN General Assembly A/RES/64/134, Proclamation of 2010 as IYY and Joint Statement by Heads of (27) UN Entities for the Launch of the International Year of Youth under the theme Dialogue and Mutual Understanding

Considering that it is necessary to disseminate among young people the ideals of peace, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, solidarity and dedication to the objectives of progress and development. Convinced that young people should be encouraged to devote their energy, enthusiasm and creativity to economic, social and cultural development and the promotion of mutual understanding, Decides to proclaim the year commencing on 12 August 2010 the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding; Requests ...all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, to support all activities related to the Year...;Excerpt from: 1 February 2010, , Resolution adopted by the General Assembly (A/64/432)]

Year of forests 2011

The General Assembly, "Recognizing that forests and sustainable forest management can contribute significantly to sustainable development, poverty eradication and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals.. "Emphasizing the need for sustainable management of all types of forests, including fragile forest ecosystems, "Convinced that concerted efforts should focus on raising awareness at all levels to strengthen the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests for the benefit of current and future generations, 1. Decides to declare 2011 the International Year of Forests; Encourages voluntary partnerships ... to facilitate and promote activities related to the Year at the local and national levels...- Excerpt from: 20 December 2006, UN GA Resolution, Full text at: <http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/resolution.shtml>



See also swims for 1986 Year of Peace in [Part 3-12 Sports and Athletics](#)

Sample of Observance of Anniversaries of Peace Meditation Group at UN
 Anniversary of 1968 First talk for UN Community : 26 Nov 1976 "Song Universal"

The Eighth Anniversary of the first Talk that Sri Chinmoy gave to the United Nations Community was remembered at this Friday Meditation on 26 Nov 1976.

The lecture “The Song Universal” appeared in the book Garland of Nation souls.

Sri Chinmoy lead the Friday meditation and gave a reading from of the 1968 talk a “Song Universal”



1980 April Tenth Anniversary Celebrations: Peace Meditation Group at the UN

The meditation group celebrated its tenth year of inner and outer service to the United Nations community on 14 April 1980 with a programme of music and meditation followed by an anniversary luncheon.

At the first ceremony, held in the Chapel of the Church Center for the United Nations, members of the meditation group thanked Sri Chinmoy for his decade at the UN. of tireless work for world peace, since ... 1970.

Mr. Kwadwo Ofosu-Benefo, General Analysis and Policies Division (DIESA) UN, presented on behalf of the meditation group a UN flag as a gift symbolic of Sri Chinmoy’s “dedication to world peace, harmony and oneness of the human family...dedicating your life to serving humanity at large and the UN in New York.”



At the luncheon, Ambassador Illueca of Panama, Ambassador Hepburn of the Bahamas, and Ambassador Rossides of Cyprus, as well as others spoke about the importance of meditation in relation to the work of the UN.



Ambassador Illueca of Panama (left) and Ambassador Hepburn of the Bahamas with Sri Chinmoy



Sri Chinmoy with Mrs. and Ambassador Rossides of Cyprus.

Twenty-First Anniversary Celebrations – Music Includes “Peace in 25 Languages” and Peace Concert

12 April 1991. The Manhattan Chamber Artists, performed at the UN along with members of the St.. Bartholomew Choir.

Among the pieces premiered were “*Peace in 25 Languages*” and “*Quartet for Peace*” by contemporary **composer Mr. Jeff Baker**. The latter work used the poetry of Sri Chinmoy, **narrated by pianist Ms. Maria Cisyk**, and was dedicated to the **twenty-first anniversary of the Peace Meditation at the UN**.

Two weeks later, on 24 April 1991, Sri Chinmoy performed an improvisation on the piano during an anniversary concert in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium.

