

Part Three

The World Dreams Peace Bridge





Chapter Eleven - In the Wake of 9/11

On the morning of September 11, 2001, I awoke from a strange dream:

I am standing in the doorway to an air traffic control tower. This is a major airport, maybe Kennedy in New York, and there are a number of employees monitoring air traffic. One African American man stands up from his chair with a microphone in his hand. He is obviously shouting and agitated.

This was at 5:30 a.m., my usual wake-up time. I rolled over in bed, took a look at the clock, and thought, “Strange dream. I never dream about airplanes.” Thinking no more about it, I went on with my morning routine. I walked in the park near the river down the street from my house, had some breakfast, and then sat down at the computer to check the messages on the IASD Bulletin Board, as I did every day.

This morning I had barely sat down when I received an email from a friend. “Turn on the television,” was all it said. Given such a cryptic message, who could resist? I quickly stepped over and turned on the television, to see a twenty-one inch image of what looked like the World Trade Center towers in New York City. An announcer was saying, “There has been an explosion at the World Trade Center. An aircraft, maybe a private airplane, seems to have flown into the....”

As he spoke, the commentator’s voice trailed off. We all watched in horror as a second plane, obviously a commercial jet, flew into the other World Trade Center tower, shearing off part of the building, creating a fiery explosion. The stunned commentator was saying, “It’s another airplane. A second airplane has flown into the tower.”

As the story of the day’s tragedy began to unfold, I heard in my head, as clearly as if someone had said it out loud, “This day will change the world.” My next thought was about the Boarders on the International Association for the Study of Dreams (IASD) Bulletin Board. What would they think? What would they be hearing? And then, oh my word! I wondered how many hundreds of people around the world had dreamed precognitively about this event, and how they must be feeling, seeing it unfold before their eyes. I knew I needed to go back online to tell people they could discuss their premonitions on the Bulletin Board.

Precognitive dreams are not synonymous with group dreaming. However, we have seen from several cases how precognitive dreamers will tune in on mass events such as the O.J. Simpson trial. In these cases, the group focus seems to produce the immediate appearance, in the dreams of multiple dreamers, of upcoming, emotionally charged events. Watching the events at the Twin Towers on September 11, I had a feeling for what might follow.

Later that day, other members of IASD’s Board of Directors would begin to talk with me about how we might deal with the nightmares which were sure to

come. My response was no; first we have to deal with the precognitive dreamers.

What touched my heart the morning of 9/11 was the swift response of other dreamers from around the world. Somehow, in the process of creating a Bulletin Board community, I had landed in the middle of a warm, caring and generous group of international dreamers. On the morning of 9/11, the first messages that came on my screen were messages of condolence, both for me and for the American people from Japan, Australia, Turkey, England, Canada, Mexico, Chile. Striking as they had, at the start of Manhattan's business day, the terrorists had found citizens in every part of the world awake and watching TV. The outpouring of caring and compassion from around the world was heartwarming and comforting.

Then came the dreams.

There are some things about precognitive dreams that all people who study them seem to agree upon. One is that spontaneous precognition most frequently involves something that is emotionally charged. Many people will dream precognitively about accidents or disasters, particularly if these involve family members or other intimates. Another thing about precognitive dreams upon which most researchers agree is that they can happen at any time before the event, sometimes days or years in advance. The events of September 11, I knew, contained an emotional charge at least as strong as any other dream-producing event in the past few years, maybe stronger. I wrote a message to the Bulletin Board inviting dreamers to share their feelings and dreams about the day's events on the Board and then forwarded the message to all the other dream groups I knew of: IASD online study groups, *Electric Dreams*, various list serves, and the oldest online dream group in existence, a Yahoo group called dreamchatters.

I was in the midst of having some remodeling done on the house that September, and before long the work crew arrived, banging ladders, shouting back and forth between vehicles. I stepped out on the front porch, not knowing if they had heard the news. John, the contractor, had a daughter at New York University, just a few blocks from where the planes had struck. I knew he would be worried. Yes, they'd heard the news. No word from John's daughter.

I found myself once again in front of the television, this time flanked on either side by burly workmen. We could not tear our eyes away from the sight of the towers bursting into flames, the sounds of shouts and sirens, heroic police and firefighters moving into place, people leaping to their deaths from impossible heights, and the controlled panic of people moving away from the explosions, helping one another, finding one another, looking for one another.

All day long I moved back and forth from television to computer and back again. John kept his cell phone close to his ear, calling for news about his daughter. And the workmen made half-hearted attempts to return to work.

One of the first precognitive dreams reported to the Bulletin Board was from Lou, a Board regular. “Did anyone else have a precognitive dream?” he wrote. “I think I did. I have been dreaming for weeks about plane crashes, but I didn’t think anything of it until this morning. In my dream last night, a plane crash landed in a field.”

At the time Lou wrote his post to the Bulletin Board, even though the news of the third airliner flying into the Pentagon had broken, nobody yet knew the plight of the fourth plane, which did indeed crash into a field, as passengers and crew on board brought down another terrorist team.

After that, the first trickle of dreams on the Bulletin Board became a stream and reports of dream precognition flowed in—not only to the IASD Bulletin Board, but also to all of the various dream-associated lists and sites online. Some dreams were only vaguely related to the terrorist attacks. Quite clearly there were some people who only wanted to feel part of the conversation. But other dream reports were very precise.

“I woke around 4:30 a.m. on 9/11,” wrote one woman:

In the dream, a spiritual master from Nepal is telling my son, my friend, and me that if we return to this high rise building in Manhattan, there will be a big fire and explosion. The “we” we have been will die. We will be born into piety, he tells us. We are ready to become vessels.

IASD Board member, David Gordon wrote to the Bulletin Board mid-afternoon on the September 11:

Last night a friend of mine dreamed that he sat waiting high up in a sports stadium. Wondering what kind of event had been planned, he looked out into the distance; and to his horror saw a huge plane crash into a city and entirely destroy it. Next to him in bed last evening his partner dreamed that she was caught in a building in which there was a raging fire. Everyone was screaming and trying to get out.

Two people who had been backpacking in the Yukon wilderness, a married couple, later reported that they had been totally out of range of either radio or television when the terrorist attacks occurred. They had both slept badly the night before though and each of them had dreamed so clearly about disastrous events in New York City that the next morning they trekked out of the wilderness to find a boat captain with a short-wave radio. This was early in the morning on September 11 and the boat captain reported that nothing out of the ordinary was happening in New York, despite their dreams. Baffled, they were about to return to their campsite when the boat captain called them back. He had just heard the first confused reports of a plane hitting one of the World Trade Center towers.

The people who made their way to the online dream sites were not the only ones who reported precognitive dreams. There were phone calls all day from other people I knew. One of my closest friends called to say that she had spent

the previous night dreaming that she was wandering the streets of a big city, with tall, canyon-like walls of buildings all around her. In her dream at one point, she came to an entire city block that looked as if it had been razed to the ground. In the dream she wondered if they were going to build a park there. Another friend, one who swore she had never had a precognitive dream in her life, dreamed that she was trapped in the elevator of a building where there was a big fire.

I got the funny feeling that my friend was not the only person to have a precognitive dream on September 11 who had never recalled dreaming precognitively before. I worried about all those dreamers who, in addition to dealing with the shock of events in waking reality, might be reeling under the impact of what their dreams had announced.

“I don’t think I’ve ever had many precognitive dreams before,” a Board visitor from the UK wrote. “Growing up, my family always said that dreams were just nonsense, but I think I might have dreamed about the World Trade Center disaster the night before it happened. I dreamed that I was in a plane that was crashing. I went up to the cockpit to see what was happening. The pilot was fighting with a man who had a gun.”

Another person wrote,
Hello,

I came to this site after years and years of dreaming, many of them come true. I have always written them down. Two nights before the disaster, I dreamed my sister and I were on an American Airlines jet and it began to crash. I woke on the morning of the disaster filled with a horrible feeling of dread and confusion. I had no idea why I was feeling the way I was. I am getting a bit concerned about my dreams in general. I guess that is why I found this site. Last night I had a dream that made me wonder if there are other people like me, or if I am just going crazy! Actually I’m quite pleased to know there are others like me!

The days following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon became a blur of activity as I and other dream workers began to discuss how to cope with the flood of requests for dream information. Quickly, various texts about trauma and nightmares were located, copied and put up on the IASD web site, which was getting more hits than ever before in its history. Therapist Robert Bosnak, a pioneer in online dream work methods, enlisted the assistance of his friend Jill Fischer, a psychotherapist from Connecticut, to create The Nightmare Hotline.

Jill and Robby together had created the Cyberdreamwork web site and the cyberdreamwork training program, a method of group work which combined online telephone conferencing, chat rooms and bulletin board to successfully connect dreamers from around the world in weekly dream groups. Now the pair set about designing a hot line that would be staffed twenty-four hours per day,

seven days a week, by fully trained therapists to assist people in dealing with their post-9/11 nightmares.

In the midst of all this activity, the first tapes were released of Osama bin Laden and his Al Qaeda troops claiming responsibility for the Trade Center disaster. In these tapes, we clearly hear the voices of bin Laden's captains discussing the dreams they had about the suicide flights of the Al Qaeda martyrs, and how these men who went to their deaths along with so many others, were doing the will of Allah.

I was shocked and saddened, but not surprised, to see a conversation begin online, led by a well-known dream researcher, wondering whether bin Laden and the Al Qaeda had been utilizing dream state to plan their attacks on the United States and maybe even terrorize people in dreams. I followed this conversation with some interest, since my own belief is that we all utilize the dream state to plan the future.

I wondered if the people whose paranoia led them into thinking such crimes as terrorism might be planned in dream state could recognize that people on both sides of the conflict had been dreaming and scheming. Yet no such clarity emerged from the conversation, which quickly dropped back under the surface of the fast-moving information stream.

In retrospect, it is at least worth noting that the question of planning war in dream state arose. It is also worth observing in this context that generals—from Julius Caesar to George Washington to General Patton in World War II—have frequently recorded their dreams (often precognitive) of conquest and victory. In fact, it is surprising to me that no enterprising dream author has yet collected these military dreams into a book. The question of how war and other lethal conflict fits into group dreaming or world dreaming deserves consideration. But in these post-9/11 days there was little time to think about such things.

Mark Barasch, a New Yorker and author of the then best-selling book *Healing Dreams*, wrote to the Bulletin Board that he was collecting dreams about the Twin Towers for a lecture he had been asked to give in Manhattan. He acknowledged that he had more than a passing interest in the subject himself “having dreamed a week before the tragedy, about cars streaming from NYC in a rain of ash from some ‘apocalypse’ that had flooded the city.”

An IASD Past President, Alan Siegel sent a note to the Board of Directors public discussion list that he'd been asked to appear on the Today Show early in October, to talk about post-traumatic nightmares in children. Reporters all over the United States, who seemed to have discovered the importance of dreams in light of the terrorist attacks, were now wanting immediate commentary from dream experts; and researchers such as Ernest Hartmann, M.D., Kelly Bulkeley, Dale Graff and Robert Moss, on seeing the number of precognitive dreams presented online, had begun to ask for collections of these dreams to be sent to them for research purposes.

At home, the remodeling work continued. John's daughter had been located and was safe at home with a roommate in upstate New York.

One of the most impressive dream responses to the disaster came to my attention on the Bulletin Board several days after 9/11. A woman who signed herself simply "Emily" wrote: "In July 1999 I had the following dream which appears on page 154 of my book *Dream Weaving*:"

I was lying in bed while a woman, a nurse, looked after me. She said it made her sleepy to watch me sleep! I stayed in bed, because it was so dark out that I assumed it was night. Then I looked at my clock and saw that it was 9 a.m., so I got up and went outside. The sky was predawn gray. Someone told me there had been a disaster in New York City that had created a lot of dust that was blocking the sun....¹

The author of this post, and author of the book *Dream Weaving: Using Dream Guidance to Create Life's Tapestry*, released by the ARE Press in January 2001, was Emily Vanlaeys.

By the end of September, I began to feel a shift in the mood on the Bulletin Board. From excitement at the fact that there had been so many precognitive dreams, the Boarders slid toward a sort of morose acceptance that even if someone dreamed precognitively and got the event with absolute accuracy and then tried to warn someone, nobody would believe the warning.

One boy who, like John's daughter, attended New York University had dreamed, in the early hours of September 11, that there was some sort of an attack going on in Manhattan and that debris was falling on his apartment. Since this particular boy had a history of accurate precognitive dreams, he woke up his two roommates and told them they needed to all get out of there.

The roommates laughed him off, he said. They told him to go back to sleep. A few hours later the apartment was one of those in the area just north of the World Trade Center that had to be evacuated.

A New Jersey woman wrote that for weeks before the disaster, she and her sister and her daughter had all been having dreams so dire that they decided to go to the police about them. They were treated politely, but firmly told that there was nothing the police could do about dreams.

So what if we do have precognitive dreams, people began to ask? What if the dreams are accurate and nobody listens? What if the dream is not accurate, but I get everyone upset by it? Is there any way to tell if a dream is precognitive? Should I have let people know what I dreamed? Could I have averted the tragedy? Is there someplace online people can go to register their precognitive dreams?

These were all questions I had dealt with previously on a much smaller scale but the very real agony in the voices asking these questions broke my heart. Sometimes it seems that for every person who dreams a clear, precise, predictive dream, there are two or three others whose dreams are only illusory. There are

many people who are enchanted by the glamour of being psychic, who will make the flimsiest of connections between their dreams and waking events, and who want to call these dreams precognitive. But there are still many, many others, who consistently have accurate predictive dreams, and who know that certain events are scheduled to happen. For these people, the impotence of knowing that something is going to happen but not being believed goes far beyond any definition of the Cassandra complex.

It was these people I wanted to address when I wrote the paper “Dealing with Precognitive Dreamer Guilt” in late September and sent it to Richard Wilkerson for *Electric Dreams*. In addition to putting it into the e-zine, Richard kindly formatted the article as a stand-alone document that could be accessed by the precognitive dreamers who came to the IASD Bulletin Board and other places online.

This paper is still readily available so I will not recreate it here. Still, I would like to talk about one or two of the points raised in this article. In the past, those who study dreams have been reluctant to cover psi dreams: that is telepathic, lucid, mutual, precognitive dreams, or any type of dream that deals with alternatives to our standard beliefs about space and time as anything but anomalies. Psi dreams were thought to be experienced by such a small percentage of the population as to be almost negligible. Yet here were all these dreamers appearing online, clamoring for answers.

In writing the article about precognitive dreamer guilt, I first wanted these people to know that it is possible to dream the future—not to mention performing several other acts from the dream state that are generally believed to be impossible.

Until this time there has been very little available, even on major dream-related web sites, to support or lend credence to psi dreamers or those who by precognition, telepathy, or other paranormal means receive information in their dreams about upcoming events. Since 9/11 this has begun to change. In addition to the numerous books and articles more seriously addressing the issues of psi dreaming published in the past few years, the IASD has begun one of the most popular online conferences available, its annual PsiberDreaming Online Conference, hosted by Ed Kellogg. This conference, the only one I have ever encountered where participants say they would gladly pay more for less material, provides two weeks of presentations from major researchers and practitioners of all forms of psi. It gives audience members the opportunity to interact with and question the presenters and even provides a gallery for dream-related art. It has become a fertile breeding ground for new thoughts and ideas about psi. However in 2001, information available about psi dreaming or the types of precognitive dreams so many people had experienced was limited.

One question about precognitive dreaming that needed to be addressed was the question of how to tell if a dream is precognitive prior to the event

happening in waking life. Anyone who has ever dreamed of pending disaster wants to know the answer to this question. Do I just look at a newspaper in the dream? Ask someone what the date is?

People experienced in precognition will say that the precognitive dream has a different quality from other dreams. They say they can tell immediately if a dream is precognitive. When asked to describe the specific quality though, the answers given by precognitive dreamers vary widely. Some dreamers will say that the colors in precognitive dreams are sharper and brighter; some say the distinguishing factor is that the dreams have unknown people or places or events; some will say it's just a feeling they have when they wake up. My own belief is that each person's way of signaling precognition is quite individual but can be discerned by the dreamer who pays close attention.

The precognitive dream raises serious questions for the dreamer, as it should for all of us, particularly in cases like the Twin Towers disaster where hundreds of lives might have been saved by listening to dreams. And once we are past the question of whether precognition exists, there are myriad other questions, the first among them being whether a predicted or foreseen future can be changed.

I found it fascinating that one dreamer I knew actually dreamed her response to this question the night of September 10, as if she were giving herself a preview of the trouble ahead. The dream as it was told to me was this:

I was in the home of some friends, not people I knew in waking life, but people I knew very well in the dream. We were all sitting around the living room talking. I knew that the next day would be Pearl Harbor Day. The Japanese were going to attack Pearl Harbor and the U.S. was going to get into World War II. Should I tell them?

The mother of the family said to me, "You don't look very well. Would you like to go lie down for a bit?" So I did. I fell asleep. But when I woke up I was still there, in the same house, in the same dream, and Pearl Harbor was still going to be attacked the next day. Would it do any good to tell them?

In this dream the dreamer faces the dilemma of choice that any precognitive dreamer must make. There are dozens of examples of precognitive dreams that have come true. What many people do not know is that there are also numerous recorded examples of dreams in which telling the dream or changing some waking-life event seems literally to change the future.

A particularly good example of this was told to me once by a man who just happened to visit the office at Poseidia Institute. He was the copy machine repairman who came to fix our broken copier. While he spread parts of the copy machine around him on the floor, he talked about a dream he'd had just before taking his family on their summer vacation.

In the dream he was driving the family car, wife beside him, kids in the back, when he realized that he was driving too fast. Just at that moment he crested the

top of a small rise. The sun's glare was in his face and a patrol car pulled out, lights flashing. The policeman pulled the dreamer over and gave him a ticket.

The next day, as the family left for vacation, he was driving. But when they came to an area that began to remind him of the scenery in his dream, he pulled over and asked his wife to drive. "Be sure to put on your sunglasses," he told her. Sure enough, before long, with his wife in the driver's seat, they crested a small rise. The sun's glare was on the windshield, and a police car was sitting at the side of the road. His wife, driving carefully at the speed limit as she always did, drove right on by the police car without even noticing it.

"I figure I saved myself sixty, seventy dollars on that one," the repairman said, shoving the newly repaired cartridge into place on the copier, a self-satisfied grin on his face.

Prior to 9/11, support for precognitive dreamers was rare. There have been precognitive dream registries, but nothing to date that is widely used. A Precognitive Dream Registry is a place where dreamers can register the fact that they've had what they believe to be a precognitive dream, date and time stamp it, and compare their own dreams with the dreams of others on the same subject. Harry Bosma of the Netherlands, who has done a great deal both for the online dream movement and for psi dreamers through his various innovative programs, has been working to create a viable dream registry that can be used by people of many different nationalities.

Another issue faced by psi dreamers is that many of them are uncertain about their abilities and would like to learn more about how to dream telepathically or precognitively or to just sharpen their skills.

Not long after 9/11, Dale Graff, who was one of the U.S. government's most capable remote viewing experts during the Cold War's Stargate Project, and an excellent precognitive dreamer as well, invited people who had dreamed precognitively of the disaster to join him in a Psi Dreaming project.

It was Dale's intention to work with a few of the most talented precognitive dreamers he could find in order to predict future disasters in some very specific ways. Unfortunately, he was inundated by so many dreamers who simply wanted to learn more about using their talents that he had to drop the project altogether, unable to cope with a major educational effort, while still working with those already proficient.

What is the value of a precognitive dream? I returned to my own dream of the morning of 9/11 many times during the post-9/11 discussions with other dreamers. As a vehicle for foretelling the future, my dream was a complete failure. Seeing a disaster only a few hours before it is going to happen, particularly in a dream such as mine, which showed only a fragment of the waking life event, allows no opportunity to use the dream as a warning. And the majority of dreams prior to 9/11 were just like this. Were such dreams only an

intrusion from the emotions of the event to come, a way of seeing through a glass darkly?

Personally, I believe that all dreams can be viewed on many levels and offer information simultaneously at the personal level as well as the interactive or social level. When I looked at my September 11 dream in this manner, I found a clear personal message. In my dream I had been standing in the control tower, watching others respond to an emergency. Why, I had to ask myself, was I in the control tower? What metaphor did that offer? It seemed to me that I knew enough to be in control, but rather than acting, I was only observing.

In the paper “Dealing With Precognitive Dreamer Guilt,” I talked about my own feelings of guilt as well. I did not feel guilty for not warning of the disaster ahead; there had been no time for me to do that, whether or not I would have been believed. Rather, I interpreted the dream as a message from my dreaming self to my waking self that I needed to stop observing and respond.

I presented to dreamers in this article that Edgar Cayce defined the word responsible as “response-able,” that the only thing any of us needs to do in any situation is to respond. The ability to change directions, change paths, to become more able to respond, is one of the major freedoms which dreams allow us – a freedom which can transform our waking lives.

I realized in the days after September 11 that I, like many other people, had become complacent, believing that the affairs of the world were moving along just fine without me. I directed my attention to a narrow circle of personal matters and interests rather than paying attention to world events.

During the Civil Rights era of the 1960s and 1970s, I had marched in the streets against racism and violence. I had protested South African apartheid and the U.S. involvement in Southeast Asia. During the last years of the 1960s, I had attended a wonderful program created by the University of Pennsylvania and Crozier Theological Seminary to train community activists: Upland Institute. Two Quakers, George Willoughby and George Lakey, and two Baptists, John Williams and Ken Smith, introduced students to social activism, grass roots organizing and pacifism.

Between this training and the message of my 9/11 dream, I knew what I needed to do. I needed to stop watching and begin acting, in every way I knew how, to stop the tide of hatred that seemed to be rising in the world. I felt as if 9/11 had the effect of waking me from a long dream.

In the years that I moderated the IASD Bulletin Board prior to September 11, I had especially listened to the dreamers and dream workers from countries other than the United States. Because Internet technology was readily available in the United States, and for years the primary language used online was English, many non-English speaking people felt cut off from Internet use. Additionally, in the dream community, many dream researchers felt ignored or dismissed by their American counterparts. European dream researchers such as Brigitte

Holzinger in Austria, who conducted seminal research on lucid dreaming, Roger Ripert in France, who was one of the first to do group dreaming online, Maria Volchenko in Russia, and many others felt overlooked when collections of writings were compiled or commentary requested.

Although I could not deal with all of the conflicts created in this situation, I did my best to make the IASD Bulletin Board a comfortable place for all dreamers, and invited non-English speaking visitors to communicate in their native languages if they so desired.

Past that, I addressed the question of people feeling ignored by inviting non-U.S. members of IASD to create an Online Guide to International Dream Work, which in some cases was presented in two or even three languages in addition to English. I also edited an International issue of *Dream Time* in 2001, which invited some of these same researchers and dream workers to contribute articles about their work. During this process, I developed friendships with a large group of international dreamers who were an active part of the online community.

When I looked at my precognitive dream from the morning of September 11, 2001, it seemed to me that the most important message the dream was giving me was to exercise some control in my own life, to take action, to confront the world situation illuminated by the attacks on the Twin Towers.

Reading through some of the posts on the dreamchatters list one evening in early October, I ran across a message from Victoria Quinton of Melbourne, Australia. In her dream, she had seen the image of a single white candle, lit against the darkness. Victoria urged other dreamers to consider how each of us could bring a little light to the world.

Immediately my mind's eye zoomed in on the television show my mother watched every week when I was in junior high school. Bishop Fulton J. Sheen appeared as a spokesperson for the Christophers, a Catholic service organization. Each week at the beginning of the program, Bishop Sheen would glide across the stage in front of live television cameras, while in the background a choir sang the theme song of the Christophers: "If everyone lit just one little candle, what a bright world this would be."

Almost simultaneous with this vision the words popped into my head: "The World Dreams Peace Bridge." I was going to invite people to join me in creating a Peace Bridge.

"Dear Dreamers," the invitation read, "if you believe that we can dream precognitively, and if even beyond that, you believe we might together be dreaming the world, how would you like to join me in dreaming up some world peace?"

I acknowledged in the invitation that I had no idea what a Peace Bridge might look like, or what we might do on the Bridge, but I thought it was worth trying just to find out what might happen.

The invitations went out on a weekend. By the end of the next week, over fifty dreamers from fourteen different countries had responded by joining the Yahoo discussion list, which would become the World Dreams home. In the nearly five years since its inception, the World Dreams Peace Bridge has become the world's longest-lasting group dream journal, with dozens of dreams recorded each month, but it has also become far more than that, a model for what can be done with a combination of the desire for peace and attention to dreams.

What did this have to do with group dreaming? There is a type of research called “unstructured participatory research,” in that the researcher who designs the experiment also participates in it. I knew that there had never been an international research group focused on dreams created for online interaction. My experience with group dreaming predicted to me that this group might well provide much interesting and useful evidence.



Chapter Twelve - Creating a Peace Bridge

When I invited people to join the World Dreams Peace Bridge, I also hoped that it might be an antidote to depression. Each day I saw the dreamers who had precognitively dreamed the World Trade Center disaster become more alarmed at the shift in world politics and more distressed at their seeming inability to do anything about it. I hoped that by creating a place where dreams could be discussed freely, along with thoughts and feelings about the world, we might also create a crucible for change, allowing dreamers to become proactive rather than reactive.

I should not have been surprised when people responded by dreaming about this new project.

“When I mused on your invitation,” Jody wrote to me on October 21, 2001, “I had a dream surprise. Here it is.

I am talking with some people, dark haired, beautiful women, I think. They asked me to commit to the task of growing, harvesting and preserving a set of heirloom seeds. I hesitate, thinking of the task and that I might not be so successful with seeds as with plants. Big responsibility these rare seeds and I’m not completely confident of my skill to do this. Also, I know that it will require a long-time commitment and patience.

But in fact I do accept the commitment, and receive a small, brown envelope with seeds in it. On the package, it says: GOLDEN ERA. The name of the seeds! But I immediately realize what I have been given and what my task is: I have been given the seed forms, the “memes” or images of a “Golden Era,” the golden or high time of culture, and it is my job to perpetuate these seeds, these memes or life forms.

By accepting the package, I accept the commitment.

“Here is a brief dream which I had the night after the September 11 attacks,” Sandy wrote,

A close-up of the face of Beau Bridges. He looks directly at me (directly into the camera, if this were a movie) and I know there is something really important happening. He does something with his hands. It’s out of frame, and so I can’t tell what it is. And then he raises his hand up, and he has opened a lipstick tube. Once again, he looks directly at me, and then deftly applies the lipstick. He smiles and I know this is really important.

“Here is what I make of it,” she said, “‘Beautiful Bridges’ (instead of burning bridges, which is how I was feeling after the devastation.) Here is a really strong man. A man who can take charge. He has power, but he needs something else. When he applies the lipstick, I think of it as a metaphor for feminizing his power, and I reckon this is exactly what we need in these times.”

Not only was the idea that we could build a beautiful dream bridge and plant the seeds of change having an impact on the minds of the people contacted about The World Dreams Peace Bridge, but it seemed to be impacting others as well.

Generally I walk in the morning at sunrise by the river that runs through the city park near my home. One morning late in October, I encountered a couple I often saw walking at the same time there. Moving quickly toward me, the woman, Isobel, said, “I dreamed about you last night.” By this time they were standing almost directly in front of me, the embarrassed husband looking ready to run if necessary. “I don’t know if you believe in dreams,” Isobel said. I assured her that I did. “In this dream,” she said, “your entire house and yard were being remodeled. The house was bigger, lots bigger, and beautiful, with lots of windows.”

“And you know that ditch by your house?” Isobel was referring to an old railroad right of way which abutted my yard. Maintained by the city, it was kept in low woods. A drainage ditch separated the property from my yard. I nodded, smiling at her excitement. “Well, that was all landscaped too. There was this little bridge that crossed over the ditch, and everything was landscaped into beautiful gardens. It was absolutely gorgeous.”

Her eyes were shining, remembering the beauty of the landscape she’d seen in her dreams. “I probably dreamed it for you because I couldn’t dream it for myself,” she said sadly, the light suddenly gone from her eyes. She turned to walk away.

“Well, next time I’ll dream for you,” I replied.

Turning back to face me, walking backward, Isobel grinned. “But I don’t want no house and garden,” she said. I asked her what she would like me to dream for her.

“You can send me on a world tour,” she laughed. “I want to go on a world tour, singing.” She turned and hurried to catch up with her husband.

I shook my head in amazement. Beautiful bridges indeed. And little did Isobel know that her dream might actually take her on a world tour when I reported it to people on the Peace Bridge. Isobel died not long ago. I hope that she is somewhere singing.

Some people invited to join The World Dreams Peace Bridge declined the invitation because they saw dreaming for peace as an imposition on others. I was surprised at this, since my own belief is that if in fact we are creating the world around us from our dreams, hopes, and fears, much of the process is unconscious but happening anyway. Still, I was interested to hear the varying opinions from those I asked to join the Peace Bridge. “I would no more want to focus on creating peace than I would on creating war,” one woman wrote to me. “Who am I to decide what other people need?” I did not bother to argue with her that democracy involves responsible decision-making. Many people refused participation in any peacemaking process because they saw making peace, like

making war, as a process of subjugation. Nonetheless, I was glad when the subject of creating peace and how to do that became a point of discussion on the newly-formed Peace Bridge discussion list.

“Peace grows from within,” said one Peace Bridge member.

“I can dream of peace for everyone in the world, including myself,” said another. “What is Peace but every person’s right to happiness and self-fulfillment?”

I was happy when not long after this discussion began, one member suggested that we adopt as our theme song, “Let there be Peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.”

George, a retired minister, wrote:

I have known that song for years, and have heard it in church. I used to think of it as meaning peace has to begin with my being peaceful with others and working to make peace in the world. Now I see it as even more relevant to our purpose than that.

Through dreaming, we work through our own opposites or conflicts. We may speak of this as working toward an integration of consciousness with the unconscious, or working for peace within ourselves. These are the opposites which, when resolved, create a harmony that is seen in mandala dreams. When we resolve conflicts within ourselves through our dreaming, we are more psychologically ready to resolve old conflicts of ours with those around us in waking life. And so we work from our inner harmonizing to our outer harmonizing to we hope, being able to contribute to peace and justice and harmony in other parts of the world.

From the beginning, The World Dreams Peace Bridge discussion list was an active one, more active than any other online group I had ever encountered. For many people on the list, English was a second language. This sort of participation from people who sometimes struggled with the language, not to mention the concepts, warmed my heart—the heart of an American who, like many others who live in the United States, had never heard a language spoken other than English until I was in high school. For non-English speakers to be willing to communicate in this way was amazing to me. On the Peace Bridge from the very first months, it was not unusual to have two hundred or more messages in a week.

At first, many of the dreams reported to The World Dreams Peace Bridge were nightmares, the nightmares of people attempting to recover from trauma. Sara, who lived in New York City and volunteered with other members of her synagogue in the Twin Towers rescue efforts, suffered from terrible nightmares. The terrorist attack had affected her much more than it did many of us. One day, after posting a dream to the discussion list, she said, “These dreams are nightmarish when I awaken, but then I look forward to working through them. I am so grateful for the opportunity to share with you all.”

Immediately following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center came the anthrax scares. Some unknown and as yet not apprehended, person or persons had sealed live anthrax material into an envelope and mailed it to the U.S. Congress. Security already tightened after 9/11, was tightened even further. The new Office of Homeland Security issued red alerts, amber alerts, occasionally even a code green, while hundreds of arrests were made of illegal aliens, many of them young people or students whose visas or green cards had expired.

In early November, Jeremy wrote from South Korea,

Just now I lay down to nap and dreamed I was awake in my study, and suddenly white dust, like thick snow, started falling from the ceiling. I got up and went down to the living room and saw it floating down there too. I alerted my wife, who was already aware of it, and she said we should get some masks. Our child was in the house too, and suddenly I filled with fear.

“Obviously this was about Anthrax,” he went on. “Death could come so suddenly and soon. All the peace in my heart, that I’ve been carrying several days now, was swept away by the catastrophe.”

Like many of us, Jeremy had been practicing daily meditation. The Internet was an interesting help there too, since the number of meditation sites had grown, and meditations like the “Healing Breath” meditation to which Jeremy sent a link, provided moving images and music for the meditation.

In the environment of shared dreams and shared thoughts created by the Peace Bridge, many of us worked hard to not only understand the images from our dreams but to apply this understanding toward improved self-awareness. “I tell you,” one member wrote, “if my personality had known what I was signing up to with your Peace Bridge, she probably would have taken a vacation instead.”

“What I realize I am doing in this group,” wrote another dreamer “is staying fully in the flow with my authentic self. I am not censoring what my heart chooses to discuss and say. I am staying open and present to the energy of each person, and the group energy. I have not done this ever before in my life in an ongoing group setting.”

Due to my previous experience with the Dreams to the Tenth Power experiments, I was not very surprised when the synchronicities began to appear on The World Dreams Peace Bridge. One of the earliest came in November when Jeremy wrote to a new member of the Peace Bridge from India, Radhika. He asked her a seemingly impossible question. He asked her if she happened to know (out of millions of people) a woman he’d met in India several years earlier, someone he liked very much and had not heard from in quite a while. As it turned out, not only did the two women know one another, but they were also friends and neighbors.

By now, there were U.S. troops in Afghanistan, rounding up Taliban soldiers and searching for Osama bin Laden. Radhika, who lived near the Indian border with Pakistan, wrote,

Today, and this has been building, I am tired of this war. The Taliban says that Osama is no longer their guest. Bush's picture is in our papers every day, looking really important. Apparently the same terrible war lords that had Afghanistan under their control before the Taliban took over are back in. These men had long tyrannized and destroyed Afghanistan for their power. So what if there is music in the streets for a while? What really is the fate of Afghanistan?

Already on the Peace Bridge discussion list there had begun one of the most important factors of cross-cultural interchange. Since members of the Peace Bridge came from many different backgrounds and many different countries, not only were dreams discussed, but world politics also came under scrutiny from many different perspectives. Often I learned about world events from the Peace Bridge before I ever heard them from the television or newspapers. In fact, as the American media moved toward the right, I often heard news on the Peace Bridge that I never heard at all in the media. Since all issues were up for discussion on the Bridge: books and articles recommended for reading, movies suggested, and poetry and songs quoted, I found my mind expanding in all directions.

In early December, for example, Sue wrote from California. "I don't really understand why the white buffalo are showing up in my dreamtime, but last night I had another dream." She went on to recount it.

I had been walking through a museum of sorts, looking at all the exhibits of animals. And I remember a kite exhibit. We went outside to another area that was kind of like a county fair. All of a sudden, I see this huge, beautiful white buffalo standing there, just waiting to be touched. I was so excited. I said to my husband, "Look. It's a buffalo exhibit." And then, as we got closer, I could see all sizes of white buffalo. Many were babies.

At the time of her dream, Sue was not aware of the Native American legend of the white buffalo. Many others in the group were. According to Lakota Sioux legend, White Buffalo Woman was the spirit who taught the tribes all they know of living on earth, including how to make fire, hunt, and smoke the sacred pipe. When she left the first people, she promised that one day she would return. In 1994, a white buffalo calf was born in Janesville, Wisconsin. Many believed the gene for the white buffalo had long been extinct, and the odds of a white buffalo being born were according to scientific assessments, about ten million to one. Many believe that the birth of this white buffalo will restore harmony to the earth.

When Sue sent her dream, one of the Peace Bridge members with Native American ancestry wrote of a vision she'd had four years earlier of White

Buffalo Woman saying, “I have always felt that the return of the spirit of the buffalo meant the return of the People, the return of the old ways that have been gone for much too long.”

The Peace Bridge group continued to grow as 2001 drew to a close. From Mexico, Yvonne wrote,

I have also been enjoying everyone’s dreams and replies. Of course, I am still behind 249 messages.... I do not have any dreams though to share that would be worthwhile for the group, I guess...since they all seem to be more in the ‘fighting’ stage. Still, I promise to keep working so that (hopefully by the week of meditation) I can have something to share with this wonderful group!

Like many others, Yvonne believed that her dreams should be shared only if they contained messages of peace. But those in the group who had seen the value of working with nightmares disagreed. We were still feeling our way along, trying to decide who we were and what to do. A week-long meditation for peace was planned for the year’s end.

As a dreamer, Yvonne had certainly qualified by my standards. Earlier that year, at the IASD conference in Boston, Yvonne, a young woman I had never met before, asked me to sit and talk with her for a few minutes. Her question was whether I knew anything about healing with crystals.

This was a bit of a surprise to me, since crystal healing was nothing I ordinarily talked about. In fact, I knew quite a lot about gems and stones and their use for healing purposes. When I asked Yvonne how she happened to make her request, she was suddenly shy. Before the conference, she said, I had come to her in a dream and told her she needed to learn about crystals.

I’m not sure that this dream counts as shared dreaming, since I did not recall being in Yvonne’s dream at all. But we were discovering some new things on The World Dreams Peace Bridge. Freed from the restraints of traditional experimental format, allowed to go where it needed to go, the energy of dreaming seemed to provide a remarkable vehicle for sharing.

In January 2002, several visitors to the IASD Bulletin Board began sharing dreams of bridges, though they knew nothing about the Peace Bridge or what that group of dreamers had been doing. These dreams held many parallels to dreams we were recounting on the Peace Bridge and raised a question that I had never seen addressed anywhere in print—the question of the role of the Internet in developing psi skills through the construction of virtual reality.

What do I mean by this? On the Peace Bridge during the first months of its existence as a community, we often traded both dreams and insights about what the Peace Bridge and its environment might look like if this were a physical place. People described the bridge and its environs. There were dreams about the hotel or boarding house at the Bridge and about the kind of water the Bridge spanned. I think it is no accident that gamers, people who enjoy role-playing

games, enjoy the Internet, because community on the Internet involves the type of imaginative play that gamers are so good at.

The Internet also calls upon the user to exercise a form of telepathy, in the sense that people online are often strangers to one another in physical reality, while being intimates in virtual reality.

When I looked at the dreams of the virtual community called The World Dreams Peace Bridge, what I saw was that people, in their dream states, often did what we had asked people to do more formally in the Dreams to the Tenth Power experiments. People on the Peace Bridge often quite accurately identified one another in dreams, although they were strangers in physical reality.

When the dreams about bridges continued on the Bulletin Board, some of the members of the Peace Bridge who were also Bulletin Board regulars began responding to them.

“My feeling when I read about these bridge dreams,” remarked Birdy, “is that they are connected to the Internet, because a while back I had a teaching dream that told me the Internet was a bridge.” She went on to say,

I found The World Dreams Peace Bridge through my interest in dreams but it was when I read Jean’s purpose for the list that I became excited. It was not the word Peace that drew me as much as it was the word Bridge, and the realization that this was a place I could go where others believed in their abilities to dream a bridge to the world.

This business of “building a bridge to the world” is what another active Peace Bridge member, Sandy Ginsberg, called “honoring the dream.”

In all of the varying attitudes toward dream work, dream interpretation and understanding the dream, the approach of honoring the dream is the one that most implies taking an action. Some approaches to dream work are quite passive, or involve only thinking or talking about dream content in order to achieve understanding. Among those who practice the technique of honoring the dream, many never seek to interpret the dream, being content to allow the dream its mystery. They prefer to paint a picture, write a poem, or create a piece of music from the dream’s contents. Often in doing this, a deep understanding of the dream occurs.

Sandy wrote about honoring the dream in an article for the Spring 2000 issue of *Dream Time*. “We run the risk of postponing the gift from the dream when we fail to take action,” she wrote in the article.

By honoring the dream creatively, we allow the dream’s meaning an opportunity to be delivered to us. By honoring the dream, I am referring to the conscious effort to manifest a part of the dream in the waking world. This creative act can take the form of visual art, earthwork, food preparation, music, interaction with another, or an activity or journey that is calling to you.¹

It was not surprising that many of the members of the newly-created World Dreams Peace Bridge were artists of one form or another: musicians, graphic artists, dancers, poets, because the idea behind the Peace Bridge was something they already understood and were comfortable with, the idea that dreams require action, that part of honoring the bridge between dreams and waking reality requires taking the message of the dream seriously and acting upon it.

One result of this shared commitment to action was that the artists on the Peace Bridge began to share their dream-related artwork. In the Yahoo group format, there is room for sharing files, putting up photographs, allowing a virtual glimpse of the non-virtual reality of the artist or dreamer. The artwork, in many cases, was stunningly beautiful, particularly when lighted by the jewel tones of the Internet. The photos allowed us glimpses into one another's lives. In some cases, like Sandy's, the artist was a professional; in other cases, even though the artist was not trained, the dream art was an expression of the creativity inspired by the dream. Because of this profusion of beauty, we began to talk about creating a web site. The idea grew under the nurturing hand of Liz Diaz, a professional web designer, until we developed www.worlddreamspeacebridge.org, the World Dreams Peace Bridge's official web site, which now hosts not only the art work of many Peace Bridge members but also information on our many projects.

Creative action was a natural part of the Peace Bridge, a shared language no matter the cultural backgrounds of the dreamers. Just how much of a role this creative, active approach would take in developing a Peace dreaming community became apparent in the winter of 2002, when Valley began discussing a dream she was working with, about a crow and a phoenix.

What Valley told us in her original message to the Peace Bridge list was that she had been making a book with her daughter, Delaney, using this dream about the crow and the phoenix. The first question that came from the group, of course, was, "Book? What book?"

Valley explained that Delaney, who was then six, had a whole library of books they had created from dreams, that in fact making dream books was one of Delaney's favorite pastimes. Then we asked Valley to tell us the dream.

The dream is the story of a little girl named Annabella, Valley told us, Annabella and her friend the umbrella. It seems that Annabella went out one day with her friend the umbrella and had an adventure involving a crow who steals the umbrella and takes Annabella to the underworld, where she is almost lost to forgetfulness. A phoenix, with the help of the umbrella, reunites the two friends and helps Annabella recover her memory of who she is.

At this same time another Peace Bridge member, Jody Grudy, was planning an IASD regional conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was planning a dream dance performance as part of the conference. When she read Valley's dream, she thought it would make a perfect dream dance. She wrote to ask Valley's

permission to use the dream as the story to be choreographed by Cincinnati dancers. When Valley received this request, she revealed something neither Jody nor any of the other Bridge members knew, that she herself was a dancer and choreographer. She had been tapped at the early age of sixteen for a place in the Dallas Ballet Company, one of the premiere ballet companies in the United States, becoming their youngest member at the time. As she shared this with Jody, she also said, “I would like to choreograph the dream and dance in it myself.” “The Crow and the Phoenix” became a stunningly choreographed dance, presented at the regional conference, with Valley dancing the role of Annabella.

This was my first experience of the synergy created by the dreams of a group of experienced dreamers, but far from the last experience of it. Somehow, the combination of dreams with the creative process unleashed in the group an energy that went beyond any specific dreamer. The whole was literally greater than the sum of its parts.

This same energy applied when one of the original members of the Peace Bridge, IASD Past President Rita Dwyer, began to create a workshop for the 2002 IASD conference with the help of her friend Rosemary Guiley. They called it a “Dream Activism” workshop, and the number of people at the conference who attended the workshop signaled to me that members of the dream community were now looking for a new level of dream work...a way to become dream activists. In her book, *The Dreamers Way*, published in 2004, Rosemary Guiley says,

Dream activism is not an idea or theory—it is a fact, a growing movement in the dreaming community that is reaching out into the general population. In this post-9-11 world, it is more important than ever that we join together to use one of the most important tools of our consciousness—dreams—to change the world for the better. Dream activism builds on ancient dream wisdom and experience.²

In a chapter on dream activism in her book, Guiley talks about that initial Dream Activism workshop and the attempt of the twenty or thirty people who attended it to come up with a good affirmation, one which could be used in conjunction with a monthly group dreaming effort: “While people may generally agree in their desire to help make the world a better place,” Guiley says, they want to go about it in different ways. We all have causes to which we feel drawn. The solution to this proved to be a general ‘activation’ affirmation that would unite many people in dreams toward a common goal—improving conditions in the world—while allowing individuals to emphasize specific priorities.³

The activism affirmation the group created was “Tonight I dream the awakened heart. Today I awaken the dreaming heart.”

There are a number of people who have participated on both the Peace Bridge discussion list and the IASD Dream Activism list, and there has been discussion about the differing results when people use a broad affirmation like this one from when they use more specific intentions or statements such as the Peace Bridge has often used to incubate dreams about a particular topic or area of world conflict. We do not have to examine the content of these discussions in order to notice one obvious fact. Any discussion of such subtle distinctions points to an enormous growth in people's perception of group dreaming. There was a time, not so very long ago, when the concept of people sharing the intention to dream together was totally beyond imagination for most people, including dream workers and dream researchers.

Setting the intention for dreaming, as we have seen, is an important aspect of group dreaming. On the Bridge we solved the question of how to affix the intention for a group dream in a variety of ways. The "Peaceful Solutions Dream In" was one way we selected in 2002. Suggested by Kathy Turner from Australia, the intent of this type of "dream in" was to dream peaceful solutions to world conflicts and also ways we might participate in solutions. Not all members of the Peace Bridge were peace activists in the physical world, but everyone agreed that dreams themselves could be a useful avenue for action.

Sometimes, the intent of a group dream would come up spontaneously when some member of the group would mention a particular situation. A group member might mention, for example, a family crisis or a friend in the hospital. Then another member of the group would ask, "Would you like us to dream for you?" No member was ever expected to dream in a particular manner or for a particular thing.

Shortly after joining the group conversation in the spring of 2002, Pam wrote, "I wonder if anyone has noticed an increase in what I can only call psychic activity since being on the Bridge?" She told us about a recent event in which a friend of hers had incubated a dream. Without knowing this dream incubation was even happening, Pam said, "I had a dream which referred specifically to the question, which I didn't know she was asking. My dream even included the first name and last initial of the person she was asking the question about."

Pam was not the only person to feel the influence of the group's commitment to explore every aspect of dreaming. In January, Bob wrote that he and his wife Rita, both members of the Peace Bridge community, had shared a dream. Bob said that the two of them had often shared dream symbols or dreamed of the same basic themes "But this is the first time we have ever dreamt directly related dreams at the same time."

"So, Jean," he asked, "is this an oddity or what?"

The question made me laugh out loud. From what I had already learned about groups of people dreaming together, and from what I had seen of the World

Dreams Peace Bridge, I expected that group dreaming here on the Bridge would become the norm. "Or what." I replied.

Shared dream experiences increased in number as the months went on. After a particularly amusing interchange, during which Juhani had telepathically picked up that the dog in one of Jody's dreams was the famous Belgian cartoon character, Tintin, Jody replied that not only was he correct, but that she was a Tintin lover, and was also of Belgian descent. Juhani wrote: "Wow. What a surprise. Creepy. Tintin is a kind of Global Action Peace Maker. If we ever have trouble on the Bridge, then comes this dog and saves us." It was also Juhani who suggested that I might change my name from Campbell to Dream-bell, "because you really gong-gong shake people up."

The people on the Peace Bridge were curious to see what would happen if they simply kept dreaming, trying out new approaches, and exploring. After a discussion about monarch butterflies, in which several people shared butterfly dreams, Yvonne eloquently summarized what seemed to be developing as the group's philosophy about shared dreaming: "We, as collective souls, travel and 'migrate' to each other's consciousness. Some faster or deeper, some slower or more superficially."

"Butterflies do that," Yvonne said, "start as simple 'worms' but suffer a metamorphosis until they are ready to share their beauty, touching each other's souls."

"Oh golly," Donna enthused one day in April, "this world is so much stranger than I knew," and a day later, "Sometimes I think I could just live here on the Bridge and ponder everyone's dreams and all our synchronicities. But that doesn't do too much for my children."

In the world outside the Peace Bridge, the political situation continued to deteriorate. India and Pakistan fought each other to a standstill in a border conflict that threatened to resort to nuclear retaliation. North and South Korea were again embroiled with nuclear threats. We worried for the safety of Jeremy and Radhika and their families.

On July 26, 2002, Jeremy had a dream that set off a series of synchronistic dreams and events that have continued to this day. Here is the dream he sent us:

I was dreaming, and in the dream I was in a vast, fairly empty land outside a small village, but this was in Midwest, America. Others were with me walking about and one of them came up to me and said, "A train has arrived."

I looked around and there was a long, black locomotive. We all got on, and rode all the way across the country to Washington, D.C., the city of my birth. The train rolled on and stopped below the stairs of the Capitol Building, housing the U.S. Congress. The President (who happened in the dream to be Al Gore) was there in a suit applauding us, and other well-dressed men on the steps were clapping as well. I looked around at the train and saw a large white

banner around the smokestack, with elegant black lettering which read PEACE TRAIN.

Among other things, this dream of Jeremy's sparked many other dreams about trains, including one from me, in which I dreamed a room full of miniature locomotives. Rosa Anwandter of Chile who, though she was not a member of the Peace Bridge discussion list, was one of many friends of the Bridge. She told me, "I dreamed that train! I dreamed it just last week." And she sent the dream on to be posted to the discussion list.

More importantly than the dreams in this case may have been the discussion. People on the Peace Bridge began wondering what might happen if people around the world would start to create peace trains. And what might happen if these trains got sent on to other people? And what if people who received the peace trains added cars, or created new peace trains? Before long, the musings became a plan, and the first of the Peace Trains was created by Jeremy's students in an English as a Second Language class at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. His students took this idea out into the community as well, asking people to draw their ideas of what Peace might look like.

In Australia, Victoria Quinton asked her children to create a Peace Train, and through her contacts with the Nervousness.org community, contacted a teacher in Seattle, whose students created a Peace Train that wound around the walls of the hallway of their school.

The Peace Train had begun its journey just as the World Dreams Peace Bridge was finding its identity as a new form of Peace Action group. This was group dreaming with a new twist.

What I believe to be true about The World Dreams Peace Bridge can be summed up nicely by a funny little dream I had in 2002:

I am standing in the doorway of my house. I want to get to the house next door, but the way is being blocked by a big dog, a Boxer. There is a woman standing in the kitchen doorway at the back of the other house, looking over at me. She is the person I want to go see. She looks a lot like me, same long hair, same body build. I look at the dog, which is fierce. My own dog, Song, is afraid of him. I take another look at the dog, then start toward the front door of the house.

I seldom title my dreams, although many people do. But I gave this one a title: "Thinking Outside of the Box(er)." For me, this dream was a commentary on what happens on the Peace Bridge. The Bridge is the natural extension of the Dreams to the Tenth Power experiments in that it addresses the subject of group dreaming; yet released from the constraints of experimental format, it is dreams to the hundredth power, or the power of however many people want to join in the process.

In the PowerPoint presentation developed in 2004 to illustrate the work of The World Dreams Peace Bridge, the question is asked: “What Do Dreamers Do On The Peace Bridge?” The answer given is that:

We discuss our dreams.

We listen to the information in our dreams.

Always we listen for messages of Peace,

Or how we can work toward Peace.

Sometimes we discuss politics,

Or events making news,

Or how the news is reported differently in different parts of the world.

And we try to honor the dream.

We are building a Global Community.

