

2004 GANDHI - KING "SEASON FOR NONVIOLENCE"
Compassionate Activism for Global Healing
January 30 – April 4

By Anne Creter, MSW

Anne Creter will be presenting a 2-hour workshop at Life Spectrums Conference, "Spiritual Activism: Consciously Cultivating a Culture of Peace." Anne is a Peace Advocate and a Spiritual Activist who has been involved in the "Spiritual Politics" movement for many years.

YOU are invited to join this year in the 7th Annual Gandhi - King "Season for Nonviolence" education and media campaign. Whoever and where you are, this is a wonderful opportunity for you to do some grassroots spiritual activism. Conceived by the Gandhi and Martin Luther King families, the objective is to promote enhanced public awareness of the nonviolence principles and practices these two great men exemplified and to carry their vision forth. The 1/30 & 4/4 dates correspond to their memorial anniversaries. Each year the momentum grows stronger for this seasonal global peace-fest. The spirit of the Season is expressed in every conceivable way: film festivals, teach-ins on peacemaking, lectures, workshops, discussions on conflict resolution and personal reflection.

The 2004 Gandhi-King Season theme of "Compassionate Activism for Global Healing" offers a unique opportunity for people and communities around the earth to actively engage in a participatory learning process for much needed global healing. Coordinated by the Association of Global New Thought (AGNT), hundreds of major peace organizations, religious, business, arts and learning institutions have become official co-sponsors, resulting in many ongoing nonviolence programs. The campaign empowers government agencies and non-profits to create their own peace program or event that fits their unique mission and to publicize it. The Season is endorsed by the United Nations and UNESCO, on behalf of its International Decade for a Culture of Peace for the Children of the World. It has drawn media coverage and proclamations from many Governors.

The Center for the Advancement of Nonviolence produced a curriculum and resource guide especially written for the Season entitled "64 Ways to Practice Nonviolence." It has a peacemaking lesson for each of the 64 days that can be done individually or in groups. See websites www.season-for-nonviolence and www.agnt.org for ideas on how YOU can join the campaign as a spiritual activist.

The Season for Nonviolence is another manifestation of a growing counterculture bent on waging peace, not war. Its mission is to practice nonviolence as a way of life --- to make information and awareness about nonviolence as accessible and common as is information about violence in today's society. Every person can move the world in the direction of peace merely through daily choice and

action based on compassion, respect and understanding. **As a participant, you become part of the international movement for a culture of peace.** Gandhi said we must be the change we wish to see in the world. Let us not lose hope that we are changing the world one person at a time! If you have questions or wish to participate, please email me at annecrets@aol.com.

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