



PEACE CHILD'S PROGRESS...

Volume 7, Number 1

Spring 1990

Peace Child is a musical fantasy based on The Peace Book by Bernard S. Benson which tells how children bring peace to the world. The Peace Child Foundation has been set up to promote that fantasy and play a part in making it a reality.

EARTH DAY 1990

Reports of Peace Child's Earth Day activities have been overwhelming! In the US alone, over 90 performances from Car-rizo Springs, TX to Chelsea, MI and Palo Alto, CA to Brooklyn, NY brought the new *EARTH CHILD* play to life.

Several PC chapters and choruses mounted completely new productions with great success. **Olympia** sold out two shows; **Ithaca's** presentation at Cornell University focussed on "the problem of apathy" as well as environmental issues; **Palo Alto** put on three performances in cooperation with the International Earth Day Committee and the

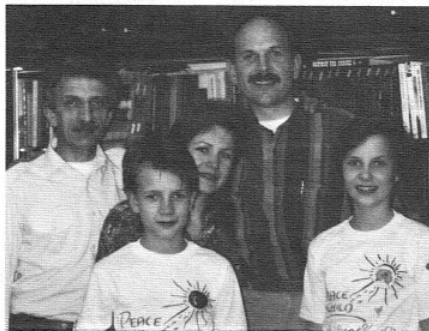


PC/Olympia celebrates Earth Day 1990 with a new play

State of California Peace Day Committee; and **Santa Cruz** followed up its *EARTH CHILD* production with a chorus appearance at the local Earth Day rally.

The choruses of **Marin County**, **Rochester**, **Sacramento**, **Syracuse**, **San Antonio** and the **LA Reperatory** all sang in community celebrations. The **Greater Los Angeles** chapter's Honor Choir performed three times on Earth Day, the newly formed Northern Virginia group (**PC/NOVA**) took part in the national rally on the Mall in Washington, D.C. and **York's** chorus was joined by the local group, **YO'R-K**, to perform their new Earth Day rap. **Rochester** members also participated in local clean up and recycling efforts while the **Kinsale Peace Children** in Ireland took part in a "Greening" of their community which removed all environmentally unfriendly products from local shops.

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Bob Baranowski with new friends Vadim, Nina, Peter and Masha (alum '89 Northern California) during home visit in Moscow

Over 200 Attend First USSR Conference

Alumni, staff and PC supporters from Belograd, Gomel, Kazan, Kalinin, Krasnodar, Moscow, Odessa, Riga, Vladimir, Volgograd, Vilnius, Yaroslav and Latvia gathered in Moscow for a four day National Conference which included performances by several of the groups, video tape screenings, master classes in the performing arts and much discussion about the future of Peace Child in the Soviet Union.

The students from Gomel located near Chernoybl made an especially moving presentation about victims of the nuclear accident four years ago and the hope that Peace Child has given them. Morning sessions were a series of meetings that included Vladimir Posner leading a lively discussion about nationality issues and Soviet PC Director Alexander Shtokolov exploring organizational options with regional representatives.

At conference end, Shtokolov commented, "Kids and adults here are fed up with events like this that are pre-arranged and pre-fabricated from above, from Moscow. This Peace Child conference was organized for them, by them. That's contin why there is so much commitment to Peace Child here." Artistic Advisor and Director/Producer of the first Russian Peace Child, Julia Klimova added, "This was really the first time I felt the Peace Child spirit - I saw it in the eyes of the children. We have given them a sense that they can do something — that Peace Child is a vehicle over which they

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FAMILY TRIP

by Jerrie Champlin

Even the "veterans" who'd been in the USSR many times before were deeply moved when the fourth Family Trip met up with 200 Soviet Peace Children. Sitting in a darkened auditorium and singing the familiar Peace Child songs had new meaning as we were surrounded by children representing over 10 regions of the USSR at their first national conference.

Like the previous family programs, this one combined sightseeing with opportunities for one-to-one contact with Soviet friends. We spent one week in Moscow and then traveled by train and plane to Kiev and Leningrad with a last day back in the Moscow area for an excursion to Zagorsk.

Betty Buck from Charlotte, NC described the trip as "such a special, personal way to see a country. The visit with families in Moscow, the chance to wander with Tour Manager/Interpreter Phoebe Brown and just the contrast of activities was wonderful. Having this kind of first-hand experience has made the news I read so much more meaningful. I can identify more with the stories now that I know people from the Soviet Union. I would hope that more people would take advantage of this opportunity in the future."

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New Merchandise Available

Peace Child/USA has a new t-shirt sporting the Foundation's logo (the two figures with joined hands found on our stationary) in blue on a heavier weight shirt. Priced at \$8, they come in the same adult and children's sizes as the familiar three color shirts. A new version of the three color shirts with the *Peace Book* art work includes this Foundation logo on the sleeve and is available for \$10.

In addition, the National Office currently has in stock two versions of the new City At Peace shirts. Priced at \$10, these come in black with white logo or in white with the logo in black and red. CAP Study Guides (at \$7.50) are also in stock and audio tapes which include several new songs written for the 1990 production will be ready later this summer.

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FAMILY TRIP

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The trip was filled with its own unique moments, both sad and fun, for each of us in the group. The conference was an extra bonus as it brought into Moscow Peace Child friends from several exchange programs. Youth Exchange alumnae Becca Wharton was reunited with friends from the '89 Northern California Program while David Woolcombe, Lucia Effros and I shared ideas with PC/USSR organizers from the different republics, and Norma Johnson and Robin Upton met with staff who will be traveling to the US for our '90 summer exchanges.

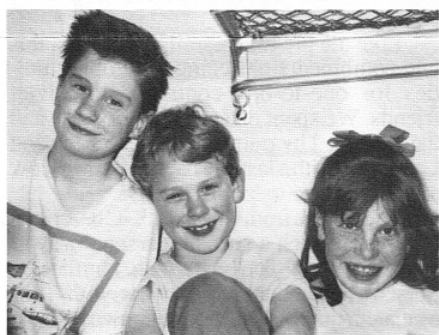
Katie Baggett who played Katya in a local Peace Child play in her hometown, Asheville, NC; learned new PC songs with

the general feeling we all shared, "It was one of the best trips I've ever taken. It was so educational and thought provoking. The school visit and the home visits were the highlights - just the chance to talk to the people about their lives. Old fears and apprehension just melted away."

The trip started with a special surprise for me when Becca arrived with her brother Kevin and "Flash" carrying 1000 disposable syringes donated by St. Peter Hospital in their hometown, Olympia, WA. These added to the 4000 already donated by York (thank

their exposure. In Kiev, we spent a day at a local school which had recently added 1000 pupils relocated from the Chernobyl area and listened to the concerns and fears about the problems they experience.

Whether singing "We Shall Overcome" with the Kiev students (accompanied by the Vice-Principal on guitar), discussing various politicians and media coverage with radio journalist Nurlan (the Soviet interpreter for the '89 Northern California program) on the night train back to Moscow, comparing typical daily schedules with a



Soviet friends and her brother Chris while her parents, psychologists Stephanie Baggett and Chip Barge met with professional colleagues at the University of Moscow. While Betty explored shops looking for teacups to add to her collection, Bob Baranowski from Sterling, VA located the Moscow BMW office and paid a visit to his Soviet counterparts. Bob Wharton of Olympia, WA earned the nickname, "Flash", by documenting the trip with his ever-present video camera.

While we all enjoyed the more typical tourist excursions to Red Square, the Bolshoi Ballet, the circus, the Hermitage and other museums and monuments, everyone's favorite activity was meeting people - during home visits and a school visit in Kiev as well as at the conference and during "free time". Professional travel agent Lori Moline from Group Travel Directors summarized

you, Jim Smoker of the York chapter for arranging this), Columbia Hospital for Women here in D.C. and Special Care of San Diego, CA (thank you, Board member Howard Katz) barely fit in my truck on the way to the airport but made a wonderful gift which our USSR sponsor, the Soviet Peace Fund, sent on to a Children's Clinic near Chernobyl where they were desperately needed and deeply appreciated.

Twice during our visit, we met groups of children from the Chernobyl area and came away with new insights about nuclear accidents and their long term effects. At the opening of the USSR conference, the young representatives from Gomel just outside Chernobyl left us all in tears as they spoke about how Peace Child was bringing new hope into their lives and helping them deal with their fears about the consequences of

Far left, top: Kevin Wharton, Alexander Woolcombe & Katie Baggett enjoy train ride to Moscow. Center, top: An impromptu performance at school in Kiev. Above, left: The children of Gomel at opening of USSR Conference. Above: Chip Barge gives Katie a lift at Zagorsk Monastery.

Soviet family over dinner or chatting about favorite jazz musicians with the tour guide, we were reminded again and again of the commonality of people that Peace Child touches in all its programs. I would encourage anyone interested in Peace Child or international friendship to join a Family Trip - there's no better or more exciting vacation opportunity around. Please contact the national office to receive information on 1991 Family Trips.

LOCAL PRODUCTIONS

Congratulations to Contra Costa Peace Child and longtime supporter Bill Small on their performances in April and May at the Lafayette Christian Church and the Bahai Temple. Bill has introduced countless folks to Peace Child and has helped with numerous projects like the '86 International Tour and the '88 Central American Program as well as this local production. Thanks Bill!

A group of Rotary Club members inspired by a PC/Toronto performance they saw, sponsored *Peace Child's* premiere in Lancombe, Canada in April. The play sold out four performances. Midlothian Middle School in Texas, Ralston High School in Nebraska, the Queen's Valley School in Flushing, NY and Stepping Stones Montessori in Grand Rapids, MI also brought Peace Child to their communities this spring. Onstage Productions, Inc in Ellicott City, MD totalled 11 performances in April and May, and plans to perform Peace Child again this coming winter and spring. Upcoming productions are planned in Coos Bay, OR; Camp Robin Hood in Chambersburg, PA; The Pines Camp in Plano, TX; the Young Actors Workshop in Seattle, WA and New Providence, IA by the Roundhouse Players.



FOURTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

Alumni, producers, directors, members, volunteers and other friends of Peace Child will gather for the Foundation's Fourth National Conference Columbus Day weekend October 6 - 8 on the West Coast. The National Council will meet just prior to the conference on Oct. 4 and 5, and the Board of Directors will meet Oct. 8 and 9. Location and schedule will be confirmed in July. Details will be available from the National Office in early August.

TWO NEW CHAPTERS ADDED

Congratulations to PC/Olympia and PC/Lincoln County (Newport, OR)! They have been fully certified as our first Northwest chapters.

Lincoln County is host to the Oregon Exchange this summer and Olympia is planning to host a 1991 exchange. Both groups started with local Peace Child plays followed by individual members' participation in international programs.

Chic Street Man (Artistic Director of '87 Boston and '89 Lvov exchanges) recently visited PC/Ithaca to perform at area schools and in a benefit concert for the local PC group. Folks from Syracuse and Rochester also stopped by for a mini-reunion.

PC/York's 1990 Peace Camp scheduled July 9 - 20 is focusing on the environment and interpersonal relationships. Activities will include, tree planting in the inner city, an international festival and time in a "state-

of the art" computer lab that will help the group create a 16 month "environmental" calendar. The "Earth Child" calendar will be sold to raise funds for chapter projects.

The March Peace Child production of PC/Kansas City successfully raised funds for the Community Service League and the National Foundation. Thank you Dee Stoner, cast members and Lee's Summit United Methodist Church for your work.

National Council Meeting

The National Council met in March and began organizing a more effective communications network. Council recommendations for new policies regarding support of the National Office, logo usage and recognition of ethnic and cultural diversity were approved and adopted at the Board of Directors meeting following the Council. The Council also agreed to collect suggestions for a new "tag line" that would identify what Peace Child is in seven words or less. To date, we have received very few and need more! Please send in to the National Office any ideas you have.



Left: Chic Street Man with Peace Child/Ithaca members. Above: Peace Child/Ithaca at Cornell University for Earth Day Performance.

MERCHANDISE

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We have received a few requests for sweatshirts. If you or your group are interested in sweatshirt versions of either the Foundation or the City At Peace shirt, please call us. If we receive enough orders, we'll have them printed.

Discounted prices are offered to Peace Child chapters and for bulk orders on most merchandise. Please call or write the National Office for more information.

EARTH DAY

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EARTH CHILD productions introduced numerous schools to Peace Child concepts and process, including Jonesborough Elementary in Tennessee; East Middle School, Farmington Hills, MI; Davenport School, Lenoir, NC; Franklin Middle School, NH; Leonard Elementary, Ovid, MI; Byzantine Catholic Central School, Youngstown, OH; Caroline Street School, Saratoga, NY; St. Michael, Bethlehem, PA; Kings Road School, Madison, NJ; Fairbank Elementary, Iowa; Halstonview Elementary, Briston, TN; Gaskillo Middle School, Niagra Falls, NY; Central Park School, Roseville, MN; PS 102, Brooklyn, NY; Tusculum Elementary, Nashville, TN; PS 85, Bronx, NY; South School, Chelsea, MI; Wesley School, Memphis TN; and Carrizo Springs Junior High, TX. Thank you to Karen Johnsen and the Beyond War network which publicized the new script so effectively.

MORE NEW STAFF AND NEW SPACE

The National Office has moved into a larger office in the same Fairfax building and has added a new position to manage it!

Joining the staff as Office Manager is Sally Riddles, a longtime Peace Child supporter and volunteer, and mother of Rachel Riddles who was part of the 1988 East Coast International cast and currently participates in the D.C. area City At Peace project. Sally and Rachel were both involved in the original Roanoke Peace Child production before moving to Northern Virginia in 1987. In addition to acting as the bookkeeper and office operations manager for National, Sally will be the primary chapter contact and will be coordinating chapter communications and financial reporting.

Several interns are signed up for this summer. Jen Paul from Antioch College is currently working as our Capital Hill Intern, Stephanie Hylan from George Mason University has just started as a Chapter Communications Assistant, Cathy Hall from American University is serving as a Public Relations Intern and alum Lucia Burns (Latvia '88 and Latvia Reunion '89) begins as an Orientation Assistant in the middle of June.

NEW FAX NUMBER [703]273-6568.

Thank you CATA and Steve Effros for letting us use your fax line so often over the last 6 years.

ALUMNI NEWS

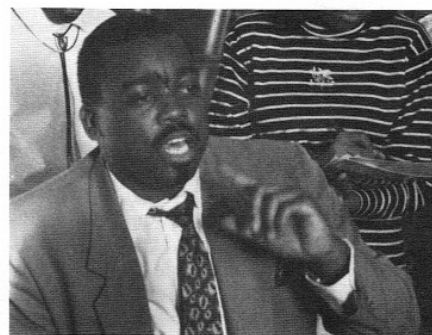
Peace Child Meets the Santa Cruz Earthquake

by Peter Isbister (member of the PC/Santa Cruz Chorus)

This past January, members of the Santa Cruz Peace Child Chorus and the Mission Hill Junior High School drama class collaborated on a one hour show about the aftermath of the October 17, 1989, earthquake.

The show was written entirely by students in the class in a matter of weeks. It followed the standard Peace Child structure of a flashback. We used a grandfather telling a story to his granddaughter to stitch together skits about rumors, radio reports, Red Cross shelters, sleeping outside, and most importantly, the rebuilding spirit of the community. The chorus came on and off stage to sing songs like "Reach Out", "Somos Futuro", "Say You Love This World", and an English version of "Mwee Zhaleyem".

The show played to packed houses of elementary school kids and even got a spot in the local paper! Putting the play together was grueling, but the product - combining skits, songs and slides - was wonderful. It was great to see Peace Child mesh with the school so beautifully. The show was important testimony to how Santa Cruz responded so well to the earthquake, and to how we should always live harmoniously, not only when disaster strikes. Thank you to our teacher, Diane Smith, and everyone from Peace Child who helped make it possible.



GRANT CHALLENGES CITY AT PEACE

In response to a Washington Post article about the 1990 D.C. production, an anonymous donor has pledged \$25,000 to match donations received through December 31 for a City At Peace National Capital Area Schools Project.

The National staff and Board are working to set up a local Steering Committee and program design that will develop this Schools Project into a model to be promoted nationwide. "We're hoping that other cities around the country will be inspired to go after local challenge grants to create their own City At Peace," says Foundation Executive Director Jerrie Champlin. A key element in the model program will be evaluation and documentation of the process to facilitate its use in other areas.

In addition to NCASP planning sessions, CAP Director Carlo Grossman and Production Coordinator Jody Grossman have had a full schedule of local appearances and rehearsals for a June 25 Congressional performance by the D.C. cast to fit in since the show's opening performances April 28 - May 6.

In April, 60 Dallas teenagers started spreading the message of hope under the direction of John Stevens and the Dallas Children's Theater. The racially mixed cast was recruited from public schools and Boys Clubs from all over the city. A grant from the North Carolina National Bank Texas made the project possible. For information about continuing performances, call the DCT at 214.978.0110.

Producer Mary Cooney recruited students from Detroit's Northern High School and suburban Birmingham's Groves High School for four performances at the Attic Theatre in May. W.K. Kellogg Youth Initiatives Program sponsored the project through the Arts Foundation of Michigan. Mary is considering another production in the future and can be reached at 313.964.2244 for further information.

Left: Peace Child/Santa Cruz performs at local Earth Day rally. Above: City at Peace Music Director Rickey Payton rehearses cast.



FIRST USSR CONFERENCE

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have some control. Its a very important moment now: we must do everything possible to allow them to realize their dream, for if we stop, or go back to organizing everything from the top in Moscow, we shall betray the great hopes they all have for Peace Child."

David Woollcombe was also on hand to survey the young participants regarding what issues they felt Peace Child needs to be addressing: "It was touching to see how many kids mentioned Peace Child itself as part of the solution to world problems. Soviet kids' imaginations were running wild with the potential of the Peace Child process, ideas tumbled out in rich profusion."

In addition to hosting seven groups from the US this summer, PC/USSR plans include a production in Vilnius, Lithuania as well as another national meeting in the fall.

PC/EUROPE PLANS FOR 1991

A week long sweep of Eastern Europe and Austria by David Woollcombe has started discussions to set up international summer exchanges in Hungary and Czechoslovakia and short term programs based on the Arnhem model in Sweden, West Germany, Austria, Finland, France, Italy, Portugal, Denmark and Norway in 1991. Peace Child could wind up with members in 35 nations in very short order.

The Netherlands

1150 schools have now purchased the D'ROP OF D'RONDER script and many will be producing the show in June/July - the "musical season" in Dutch schools.

The Arnhem program has booked the theatre for three performances Oct. 21 - 22 and has received a grant from the Johan Matser property development company. Official invitations have gone out to Arnhem's sister cities in East Germany and the United Kingdom, and to Polish and Soviet youth. Planning has begun for reciprocal programs in Poland and the GDR next year.

Program coordinator Rosey Simonds has also been busy recruiting participants for the Voice of the Children program in Noordwijk. 80 were selected from 500 applicants representing 53 countries and include several Peace Child alumni.

Ireland

The Kinsale Peace Children and the Cork group are producing one-act Peace Child shows and a group is forming in Carrag NaBhfear. Coordinator Jenny Reese has started a new project, Daughters of the Earth. She writes, "It hit me vividly, at a visceral



level that our planet is in a state of emergency - that my grandchildren would not live out a normal life span, that skin cancer would be a given and I was calmly taking band-aids out of a box. I can't tell you how deeply this shook me or how clear I became that mothers and grandmothers need to do something very big, very fast. So I am organizing a women's network all over the world. Of course, this all evolved from my experience with Peace Child last summer."

Belgium

A Brussels City At Peace style program sponsored by "Presence et Action Culturelle" is bringing together Arab immigrant children and Europeans under the direction of Marwan Zoeni. A new treatment co-written by Marwan with David Woollcombe has as its central problem the dilemma of a 12 year old Muslim girl - should she follow the centuries-old cultural tradition of her family and take the veil and thus separate herself from her Western friends, or not? Meanwhile, the group in Rixensart has developed a new play for 8-12 year olds combining the PEACE BOOK storyteller situation with vignettes created by the kids on environmental issues.

West Germany

"Peace Child Hamburg" is complete and the cast is now rehearsing diligently with the help of pop singer, Taco. A group in Bielefeld is also working on a production.

England

Excitement is mounting in Taunton as they prepare for their international cast from more than 20 countries including the first Peace



Child exchange participants from South Africa, Spain, Kenya, Tasmania, France, India, New Zealand and East Germany! Their poster proclaims: "Peace Child - A Musical for the Earth!"

INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION CONTINUES

Dates, costs and agenda for an International Conference in April 1991 in Moscow are currently under discussion and a planning meeting is scheduled for the weekend of November 10-11, 1990 (location still to be decided). If you have thoughts re: this conference, please write to Peace Child, Postbus 772, 1200 AT Hilversum, The Netherlands.

Canada

Now sistered with Volgograd, Toronto is preparing to send a cast there in August. The Canadian Institute for Conflict Resolution in Ottawa is producing a gala performance at the Canadian Museum of Civilization for their National Conference July 11 -13.

Japan

The participation of Filipino and Korean youths will be another "first" for Peace Child. A new Pacific Rim script is being developed by Mitsui and Music Director Craig Lindvahl has already written a new song. Congratulations to hard working '88 alum Mika Fujii for coordinating another international exchange.

Costa Rica

Amelia Barquero still dreams of San Jose becoming headquarters for PC/Latin America. The chorus she directs recently performed for a Bishops' meeting and received invitations to visit Tegucigalpa, Honduras and Chinondaga, Nicaragua. An invitation to the Dominican Republic has also been extended but money for travel remains a problem.

Israel

(by David Gordon)

Despite great disappointment over the cancellation of the 1990 Nazereth International Exchange, Peace Child Israel is very much alive! We have five very active workshops in progress around the country with plans for at least six new ones in the coming year.

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Top: Karina Chepoi, Steve Riffkin & Julia Klimova sing out at opening night of USSR Conference. Left: Vladimir Posner listens to concerns of Kazan Peace Child.

1990 SUMMER EXCHANGES SCHEDULE

USA

FARGO (the Imagine project)

June 19 - August 14 .

Performances scheduled:

- August 11 & 12. Trollwood Performing Arts School in Fargo, ND.
Tickets: 701.241.4799

OREGON

June 19 - July 17

Performances scheduled:

- July 1-5 . Newport.
Tickets: 503.265.9231
- July 7. The Dalles. .
Tickets: 503.296.2231
- July 8. Hood River. .
Tickets: 503.386.2000
- July 12-13. Eugene.
Tickets: 503.265.9231
- July 15. Lincoln City.
Tickets: 503.265.9231

MID-ATLANTIC

July 5-August 2

Performances scheduled:

- July 21-22. Roanoke, VA.
Tickets: 703.343.7244
- July 24. Charlottesville, VA.
Tickets: 804.296.4260
- July 28-29. Charlotte, NC.
Tickets: 704.896.8634

GREATER CHICAGO

July 12-August 16

Performance schedule to be announced, call 708.310.1673

BOSTON

August 2-August 30

Performance schedule to be announced, for information call 617.524.5454

JAPAN

July 2-August 9

USSR

(Each program is preceded by a 3 day orientation for US participants in Washington, D.C.)

- July 14-August 11. Minsk, Byelorussia
- July 14-August 11. Krasnodar, Russia
- July 19-August 16. Norofominsk, Russia
- July 19-August 16. Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine
- July 26-August 23. Yaroslavl, Russia
- July 26 - August 23. Kiev, Ukraine
- August 2-August 30. Artek, Ukraine

ENGLAND

July 6-August 7

EXPANSION

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We are proud to be one of the few available meeting places where Palestinians and Israeli children can get together in an atmosphere of cooperation. It is the children who are once again proving that the old barriers can come down, and that freedom of expression is essential in changing outdated attitudes, and stereotypes.

The traditional Peace Child process remains one of the few effective and practical ways of dealing with and overcoming hostility and deep rooted prejudices, and it is working in Israel. One of our workshops is in a very right wing Jewish area where there is little if any love for the Arabs. Everyone was very skeptical as to the wis-

dom of attempting it here, but they were proved wrong; instead of it being harder it was easier — there seemed to be a much deeper desire to finding a solution.

For 1991, we hope to be in a position to invite a full international cast for a premier production of Peace Child in the beautiful Kibbutze Tzora which is situated in the foothills of Jerusalem. This kibbutz serves as the cultural centre for the surrounding area which includes the famous Neve Shalom settlement of Arab and Jewish families living together as well as many Arab villages. It should be a very exciting happening.

I would just like to acknowledge the wonderful dedication and hard work of the Peace Child team in Israel and the brave children who participate in our workshops, many of whom are subjected to criticism and

ostracizing by their peers for their involvement in the project.

Many people are talking about armageddon and the prophecy of doom in connection with Israel and its surrounding neighbours, no less than the beginning of the end of the world! It could become a self fulfilling prophecy, if we fail to build positive bridges between these two hostile cultures. This is not just a local conflict it is a conflict that could affect the peace and stability of the rest of the world. We need your help, support and new ideas! The more workshops we open the greater the chances of success. But funding is still the key problem.

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*If we wish to create a lasting peace,
if we want to fight a war against war,
we must begin with the children.*

— Mahatma Gandhi