



Why do we walk?

When we walk, it is said that each step is a prayer, a prayer for our own awakening and change, a prayer for government officials' awakening and change.

Walk for a New Spring will walk between 15 and 20 miles each day, connecting with dozens of communities in four weeks. The walk will culminate on March 19, which is the day before the first day of Spring. March 20, 2004 is also a global day of action to end the US war on and occupation of Iraq. We encourage all community members to participate in a local or regional public action.

"Weapons that can destroy everything have already been made. That is why we must seek a power that surpasses violence. This is what humanity is searching for. The power which wins over violence, which nullifies it is called non-violence. When non-violence prevails we have peace... We must seek this power in the U.S. ... It does not involve politically taking power or manipulating the economy, but transforming the minds of the people...U.S. policies will be converted should her people become more spiritual and stand up and search for peace.... It all goes back to the spiritual principals of not taking another life and not stealing. Today, instead of murder we call it 'armaments' and instead of theft we call it 'trade'. Cunning reasons are given to openly exploit and plan to kill people. (But) it is the workings of the human heart and mind that are not visible that can correct such misguided actions of the nation-state and the modern world."

*-Most Venerable Nichidatsu Fujii,
Founder, Preceptor, Nipponzan Myohoji*

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This Walk is initiated by

Nipponzan Myohoji, a Buddhist religious order, based at the Peace Pagoda in Leverett, MA

Co-Sponsoring Communities

Agape Community,
American Friends Service Committee,
Ipswich House of Peace, Traprock Peace Center

Walk for a New Spring
Toward a Nonviolent Future
Nipponzan Myohoji Peace Pagoda
100 Cave Hill Road
Leverett, Massachusetts 01054
413/367.2202

~ *third annual* ~

Walk for a New Spring

Toward a Nonviolent Future

February 26, 2004 to
March 19, 2004

STATEWIDE INFORMATION

Prior to February 26, 2004

The Peace Pagoda, 413.367.2202

After February 26, 2004

AFSC, 413.584.8975 / afsc@crocker.com

www.WesternMassAFSC.org

www.Traprockpeace.org

LOCAL ORGANIZING CONTACT:

For the third year...

...we walk from mid-winter into Spring. As the earth brings its renewal to the surface, let us walk, pray, share together- to bring forth renewal and vision to build a genuinely non-violent future. What can we do to take up Martin Luther King's call for a revolution in this country from a "thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society"?

We warmly welcome your participation for a mile, a day, or more. We also humbly ask your help in organizing a community welcome and hospitality. There is much around which to share our thoughts, including: withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq; eliminating plans for a Bio-Terror laboratory in Boston; transforming the economy of Massachusetts which is evermore entrenched in nuclear weapons and military contracts with the Pentagon; humanizing the thinking underlying the prison system; ending global warming; ending the systematic violence of poverty...

This year we will carry with us information about the inspiring international movement linked with Hiroshima and Nagasaki-Mayors for Peace. This group is dedicated to mayors and municipal leaders collaborating around the globe to act on behalf of their citizens to eliminate nuclear weapons and create a world without war. We appeal to everyone to ask their Mayors or local leaders to join with the current 554 cities in 107 countries in the most urgent and uplifting effort.

NA MU MYO HO REN GE KYO
~ a prayer for peace

Walk Schedule

FEBRUARY 26	Pittsfield – Lenox – Lee
FEBRUARY 27	Lee – Beckett // West Cummington – Cummington
FEBRUARY 28	// Huntington – Montgomery – Westfield
FEBRUARY 29	Westfield – Southampton – Easthampton – Northampton
MARCH 1	Northampton – Williamsburg – Conway
MARCH 2	Conway – Greenfield – Montague – Leverett
MARCH 3	Peace Pagoda – Wendell – Orange – Athol
MARCH 4	Athol – Royalston // P.M. Rest Day Winchendon
MARCH 5	Winchendon – Baldwinville – Gardner / Westminster
MARCH 6	Gardner // Fitchburg – Lunenburg – Groton
MARCH 7	Groton – Westford – Chelmsford
MARCH 8	Chelmsford – Lowell – "Raytheon" – North Andover
MARCH 9	North Andover – Georgetown – Newburyport
MARCH 10	Newburyport – Newbury – Ipswich – Essex – Gloucester
MARCH 11	Rest Day. Moving to Falmouth in Cape Cod
MARCH 12	East Falmouth – (Mashpee) – Hyannis
MARCH 13	Hyannis – West Barnstable – Sandwich / Sagamore
MARCH 14	// Plymouth / Kingston – Duxbury – Marshfield – Scituate
MARCH 15	Scituate – Cohasset – Hingham – North Weymouth – Quincy
MARCH 16	Quincy – Dorchester – Roxbury – South End – Brookline – Newton
MARCH 17	Newton – Waltham – Lexington – Woburn – Wakefield – Lynn
MARCH 18	Lynn – Saugus – Melrose – Malden – Medford – Somerville – Cambridge
MARCH 19	Harvard Square – Cambridge City Hall – Copley Square – City Hall Plaza – Boston

//: transportation by vehicle

Action Steps for the Walk...

We carry with us a vital appeal from Hiroshima's Mayor Akiba to mobilize the U.S., together with the world's communities for a nuclear-free future. We also have information about Mayors for Peace (www.abolition2000.org/groups/mayors/ or www.citymayors.com/orgs/mayors4peace.html). Consider asking your municipal community / Mayor to join this international, grassroots movement to eliminate nuclear weapons and all war.

We carry three videos if you wish to view one when the walk comes to your community: one on nuclear weapons with Dr. Helen Caldicott; one on U.S. deceit regarding rationales for the Iraq war; and one on global warming from the National Council of Churches.

We carry information about the proposed Bio-Terror Lab in Boston. Our route during the final four days of this Walk for a New Spring will cover a portion of the ten mile radius which would be in grave jeopardy if there was ever an accidental emission from the proposed lab.

We respectfully ask all interested people/communities if they would consider forming their own local "think tank" on how we can change our local economy/way of life from so much reliance on militarism/dangerous bio-technology/big corporate money to... (*you fill in the blank!*). If local groups form, they can help them be in touch with others from different parts of the commonwealth.

We offer the following resources for your exploration and action:

United for Peace and Justice

A clearing house for national justice and peace action, has up to date information about March 20, a global call to end the Iraq war <http://www.unitedforpeace.org/>

National Priorities Project

Find out what war with Iraq is costing your city or town. www.nationalpriorities.org