

Peace Poles

The Amherst Unitarian Universalist Newsletter

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*The Spotlight is written monthly by individual Social Justice Committee members. This month's Spotlight comes to us from **Kenton Tharp**.*

The Peace Pole Project started in Japan in 1955 by Masahisa Goi, who decided to dedicate his life to spreading the message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in response to the bombings on Hiroshima. Peace Poles are handcrafted monuments erected the world over as international symbols of Peace. Their purpose is to spread the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in a different language, one on each side.

Since the beginning of the project over 200,000 Peace Poles have been planted in over 200 countries around the world.

Some of the extraordinary locations include the Pyramids of El Giza in Egypt, the Magnetic North Pole in Canada, Gorky Park in Russia, and Angkor Wat in Cambodia. They are promoting healing of conflict in places like Sarajevo, the Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima, and the Allenby Bridge on the border between Israel and Jordan.

Mayors in many parts of the world have planted Peace Poles to dedicate their cities and towns to world Peace. Political leaders, such as former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and religious leaders, such as Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa and the Dalai Lama, have dedicated Peace Poles. (Information from www.peacepoles.com)

Kevin Noonan, a member of our Society, first approached the Amherst U.U. Society about putting a peace pole in front of the Society. The Social Justice Committee has been researching the idea and will be presenting a proposal to the Board. We have discussed making our own, or buying one from the many people who handcraft them to put out front, perhaps by the wayside pulpit. Another idea would be rectangular inscribed plaques attached to the posts of the front entrance. If you have any thoughts please let **Mary Beth Seminario** or others from the Social Justice Committee know.