

UPF USA June Newsletter

Kaelegh Moffitt
June 30, 2026



June 2026

A monthly snapshot of peace stories, insight, and inspiration.

Building Peace Begins at Home: Celebrating Parents' Day

National Parents' Day, observed each year on the fourth Sunday of July, is a time to honor the indispensable role parents play in nurturing children and strengthening society. UPF celebrates this special occasion by recognizing exemplary parents who embody love, sacrifice, service, and dedication to family and community.

UPF teaches that the family is the "school of love", the first place where children learn respect, responsibility, compassion, and the values necessary for building peaceful communities. As we celebrate Parents' Day, let us express gratitude to parents and caregivers everywhere and reaffirm our commitment to strengthening families, where peace begins.

Join UPF in honoring parents and celebrating the family as the foundation of a peaceful world.



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UPF Welcomes Interfaith League Against Poverty–US as a New Community Partner

UPF is pleased to welcome the Interfaith League Against Poverty–United States (I-LAP-US) as a new Community Partner. Founded in 2023, I-LAP-US is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting interfaith understanding and human dignity. They center on community development and peaceful coexistence among people of diverse faiths and backgrounds.

Through its work in various fields such as education, human rights, poverty alleviation, and peacebuilding, I-LAP-US advances values that closely align with UPF's mission. We are grateful for the leadership of founder Mr. Sajid Sandhu and the organization's commitment to fostering dialogue, cooperation, and lasting peace.



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Washington DC Hosts Ambassador for Peace Assembly on Moral Leadership

UPF USA's DMV chapter recently hosted its second Ambassador for Peace Assembly, bringing together community, faith, civic, and nonprofit leaders for an afternoon of education and collaboration. Secretary General Fortune Winter introduced UPF's mission and the role of Ambassadors for Peace, while Dr. Michael Jenkins and Mrs. Yuriiko Arakawa presided over the appointment of new Ambassadors for Peace.

UPF USA President Kaeleigh Moffitt presented an educational session on "Moral Clarity in Complex Times," emphasizing conscience, integrity, and moral responsibility in leadership. Participants were also inspired by a panel discussion featuring Ambassador for Peace Anila Ali and Sonia Reyes, who shared powerful testimonies of courage, reconciliation, and service. The assembly concluded with invitations to participate in upcoming UPF initiatives and welcomed the Cultural Diplomacy and Development Foundation as UPF USA's newest Community Partner.



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Ambassador for Peace Spotlight

Dr. Marilyn J. John



Dr. Marilyn J. John is a distinguished public health leader, humanitarian, and faith-based advocate with more than 30 years of experience serving communities locally and globally. An expert in HIV/AIDS, women's health, international health, and community mobilization, she has advised governments and organizations throughout the United States, Canada, Africa, and the Caribbean, while actively supporting NGO initiatives at the United Nations.

In addition to her public health leadership, Dr. John is a dedicated preacher of the Gospel who has ministered internationally, mobilizing faith communities to address HIV/AIDS and other critical health challenges. Her lifelong commitment to service and human dignity exemplifies the ideals of an Ambassador for Peace.

[Read Full Bio](#)

Strengthening Community and Faith: Las Vegas Hosts Ambassador for Peace Assembly

UPF Las Vegas chapter held an Ambassador for Peace Assembly on June 27, 2026, bringing together 30 members and guests in a spirit of interfaith cooperation and service. The warm and welcoming atmosphere reflected the strong collaboration among UPF, the Professors and Professionals for World Peace Academy (PWPA), local church leaders, and community members. Presentations by Stephen Child, Dr. Thomas Selover, and Dr. Grace Selover highlighted UPF's mission and emphasized the importance of moral leadership in today's society.

A special highlight was an unexpected recognition by Carrie Burton of "Just Serve," who honored several UPF and Family Federation leaders for their community service. The assembly also celebrated the appointment of three new Ambassadors for Peace: Chris Wright, Minister David Matonzi, and President Craig Jex.



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UPF USA is 100% funded by donations. Please consider investing in a platform where peace leaders come together to turn shared values into shared action.

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Building Peace Begins at Home: Celebrating Parents' Day

Each year on the fourth Sunday in July, Americans observe National Parents' Day, a special occasion dedicated to recognizing, uplifting, and supporting the vital role of parents in the rearing of children. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1994, National Parents' Day reminds us that strong families are the cornerstone of a strong and peaceful society. This year, families and communities across the nation will once again pause to honor parents whose love, sacrifice, and dedication shape the next generation.



The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) has long championed the observance of National Parents' Day through local, state, and national celebrations, including the annual Parents of the Year Awards. These programs recognize exemplary mothers and fathers who demonstrate outstanding commitment not only to their own families, but also to their communities. Through their lives of service, these parents embody the values that strengthen America's moral and spiritual foundation.

At the heart of UPF's vision is the belief that the family is the "school of love." It is within the family that children first learn the essential virtues of life: love, respect, responsibility, cooperation, forgiveness, and service. The family is the first school, where parents serve as teachers and role models, guiding children to develop character and preparing them to become caring citizens and leaders.

In today's rapidly changing world, families face unprecedented challenges. Yet the need for loving, stable, and nurturing homes has never been greater. National Parents' Day offers an opportunity not only to express gratitude to our parents, grandparents, and caregivers, but also to reaffirm our commitment to strengthening family life.

Parents invest countless hours, make daily sacrifices, and provide unwavering support to help their children flourish. Their influence extends far beyond the home. As parents cultivate love, integrity, and compassion within their families, they contribute directly to building peaceful communities and a more harmonious world.

UPF encourages communities, faith organizations, civic leaders, and families everywhere to celebrate National Parents' Day by honoring exemplary parents, gathering as families, sharing stories of gratitude, and recognizing that the work of parenting is among society's most noble and indispensable callings.

As we celebrate National Parents' Day this July, let us give thanks for the parents and parental figures who have shaped our lives and recommit ourselves to building families that truly serve as schools of love, where peace begins and future generations are prepared to lead with heart and character.

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< **AFP Spotlight: Dr.
Marilyn J. John**

**New Community
Partner- Interfaith
League Against
Poverty–United State** >

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New Community Partner- Interfaith League Against Poverty–United State

The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) is pleased to welcome the Interfaith League Against Poverty–United States (I-LAP-US) as a new Community Partner. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to advancing peace, interfaith understanding, human dignity, and community development. We are grateful for I-LAP-US's dedication to fostering social cohesion and building bridges among people of diverse faiths and backgrounds.

Established in 2023, I-LAP-US is a nonprofit, non-denominational Christian organization dedicated to promoting peaceful coexistence through dialogue, mutual respect, and collaboration. The organization seeks to strengthen communities by encouraging understanding and cooperation among individuals from diverse religious, cultural, ethnic, and social backgrounds.



I-LAP-US is part of the broader Interfaith League Against Poverty (I-LAP), founded in Pakistan in 2006 by Mr. Sajid Sandhu. Under his leadership, the organization has grown into an international humanitarian and interfaith movement committed to promoting religious freedom, peace, human rights, interfaith harmony, and sustainable community development. Today, its work extends internationally through offices in Kentucky and Washington, D.C.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, I-LAP works to alleviate poverty and promote human dignity through humanitarian assistance, education, advocacy, and community development initiatives. Its vision is a world where people of all faiths and backgrounds coexist peacefully, communities are empowered to overcome poverty, and every individual has access to opportunity, education, and fundamental rights.

The organization's work focuses on several key areas, including education, human rights advocacy, gender inclusion, peacebuilding, and partnerships. Through formal and informal education programs, advocacy efforts, community-based leadership development, and interfaith dialogue initiatives, I-LAP empowers individuals and communities while promoting mutual understanding and respect. The organization also collaborates with interfaith alliances and community partners to expand its impact and strengthen networks for peace.

Particularly noteworthy are I-LAP's peacebuilding efforts, which include fostering relationships among diverse religious communities, promoting religious literacy, organizing interfaith dialogues, celebrating faith traditions, and supporting grassroots interfaith engagement. These initiatives help create environments where trust, cooperation, and understanding can flourish.

UPF is honored to partner with I-LAP-US and recognizes the organization's valuable contributions to peacebuilding and community development. We extend our sincere appreciation to Mr. Sajid Sandhu and the entire I-LAP-US team and look forward to working together to advance our shared vision of a more peaceful, inclusive, and compassionate world.

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Washington DC Hosts Ambassador for Peace Assembly on Moral Leadership

The DMV chapter of UPF USA recently hosted its second Ambassador for Peace Assembly, bringing together community, faith, civic, and nonprofit leaders for an afternoon of leadership education, dialogue, and collaboration.

The Assembly reflected UPF USA's renewed vision to convene, equip, and activate leaders working together for the common good. Secretary General Mr. Fortune Winter welcomed participants and introduced UPF's mission, Five Principles of Peace, and the role of Ambassadors for Peace as a growing network of leaders committed to service and cooperation.

A highlight of the program was the appointment of new Ambassadors for Peace. Dr. Michael Jenkins, President of UPF North America, emphasized that the appointment is not simply an award but a commission to continue advancing peace through leadership and service. Following the reading of each nominee's biography by Mr. Winter, the appointments were presented by Mrs. Yuriko Arakawa.

UPF USA President Mrs. Kaeleigh Moffitt presented the Assembly's educational session, "Moral Clarity in Complex Times: The Spiritual and Moral Nature of the Human Being," exploring how conscience, integrity, and moral responsibility are essential qualities of effective leadership.

The education session was followed by a panel discussion featuring two distinguished Ambassadors for Peace. Anila Ali, President of the American Muslim & Multifaith Women's Empowerment Council (AMMWEC), shared her experience of standing publicly with the Jewish community following acts of violence despite facing criticism within her own community. Sonia Reyes, Founder and CEO of Family Life Consulting Services, spoke powerfully about forgiving the individual who shot and paralyzed her husband, a journey that inspired her lifelong commitment to healing families and communities.

The Assembly concluded with an invitation for participants to engage in upcoming UPF initiatives, including National Parents' Day, Youth Congressional Day, and Peace Road, and welcomed the Cultural Diplomacy and Development Foundation (CDDF) as UPF USA's newest Community Partner.

The Ambassador for Peace Assembly represents UPF USA's ongoing commitment to developing principled leaders who are equipped to build trust, strengthen communities, and turn shared values into shared action.



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AFP Spotlight: Dr. Marilyn J. John

Dr. Marilyn J. John is a distinguished public health leader, humanitarian, and faith-based advocate whose lifelong commitment to service has transformed countless lives around the world. With more than three decades of experience in public health at the local, national, and international levels, she has dedicated her career to advancing health equity, empowering communities, and promoting human dignity.

A recognized expert in HIV/AIDS, women's health, international health, community mobilization, organizational development, strategic planning, cultural diversity, immigrant health, and leadership development, Dr. John has made significant contributions to addressing the global HIV/AIDS epidemic. Through her extensive work, she has provided consultation and technical assistance to governments and organizations throughout the United States, Canada, Africa, and the Caribbean, helping to shape policies and programs that improve public health outcomes and strengthen communities.

Dr. John is also actively engaged at the United Nations, where she collaborates with and advises numerous non-governmental organizations in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Her leadership has fostered international partnerships and mobilized communities to address some of the world's most pressing health and social challenges.

In addition to her public health achievements, Dr. John is an ordained minister and dedicated preacher of the Gospel. Through her global ministry, she has inspired and uplifted individuals across Africa, Europe, the Caribbean, and the United States, while mobilizing faith communities to respond compassionately and effectively to HIV/AIDS and other critical health issues. Her unique ability to integrate faith, service, and public health has made her a powerful advocate for healing, hope, and peace.

Dr. John's unwavering commitment to humanitarian service, spiritual leadership, and the well-being of others exemplifies the ideals of an Ambassador for Peace. She is also the proud mother of two sons, Kendall and Jerell.



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Strengthening Community and Faith: Las Vegas Hosts Ambassador for Peace Assembly

UPF Las Vegas chapter held a successful Ambassador for Peace Assembly on June 27, 2026, in the Cheonshimwon Dining Room, bringing together 30 participants, including 21 members and 9 guests. The event concluded with the appointment of three new Ambassadors for Peace and highlighted the growing spirit of interfaith cooperation and community service in Southern Nevada.



The assembly began in a warm and welcoming atmosphere, reflecting the strong collaboration among UPF, the Professors and Professionals for World Peace Academy (PWPA), local church leaders, and community members. Minister David Matonzi, pastor of the Las Vegas branch of the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God, opened the program with prayer while standing beside a photograph of Rev. Sun Myung Moon praying in the same room years earlier.

UPF Las Vegas Executive Director Stephen Child presented the newly developed Ambassador for Peace PowerPoint presentation provided by UPF USA. The presentation introduced participants to the mission and accomplishments of UPF, including its consultative status with the United Nations, the principles of peace, and the important role of Ambassadors for Peace in addressing today's social challenges. Particularly impactful was the section entitled "Moral Clarity in Complex Times," which stimulated deep reflection among attendees concerning the growing mistrust in institutions, leadership, and society.

Dr. Thomas Selover followed with a compelling historical presentation tracing the spiritual heritage of the Korean people, the development and persecution of Christianity in Korea, and the remarkable Christian revival that transformed Pyongyang into what became known as the "Jerusalem of the East." His presentation provided meaningful historical context for understanding the lives and mission of UPF Co-Founders Rev. and Dr. Sun Myung Moon.

Dr. Grace Selover then offered a thoughtful perspective on the life and work of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of UPF and PWPA, sharing insights from both historical and personal viewpoints. Longtime Ambassador for Peace Joyce Eatman, one of Nevada's earliest appointees, also addressed the gathering, encouraging recipients to actively serve their communities and uphold the responsibilities associated with the Ambassador for Peace designation.

An unexpected highlight of the event occurred when Alyson Egbert introduced Carrie Burton of "Just Serve," a nationwide volunteer organization that partners with thousands of service organizations. In an unscripted expression of appreciation, Burton presented awards of recognition to representatives from UPF, PWPA, and Family Federation in acknowledgment of their significant contributions to community service initiatives.

The assembly culminated with the appointment of three new Ambassadors for Peace. Among those honored was Chris Wright, founder and CEO of the AI Trust Council, whose work promoting integrity and accountability in technology strongly resonated with the assembly's emphasis on moral clarity and trust. Minister David Matonzi was recognized for his extensive ministry efforts, including prison outreach, addiction recovery support, and hospital visitation.

services that have positively impacted many lives throughout the Las Vegas community. President Craig Jex, First Counselor in the Warm Springs Stake Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was also appointed in recognition of his longstanding commitment to faith, family, public service, and community outreach.

The program concluded with President Jex offering the closing and dinner prayer. Participants then enjoyed a fellowship meal prepared by volunteers, providing an opportunity for networking, friendship, and further discussion. The assembly demonstrated UPF Las Vegas' continuing commitment to building bridges across religious, professional, and cultural boundaries while advancing the shared vision of peace through service and moral leadership.

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Your support is greatly appreciated.

Universal Peace Federation USA is a 501(c)3 non-profit dedicated to achieving world peace by bringing together representatives from the religion, government, civil society, and private sector. An NGO in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, UPF supports the work of the United Nations, particularly in the areas of interfaith peacebuilding, peace education, and the strengthening of marriage and family.

We invite you to join our effort, share your ideas, and contribute to this global effort to build a world of sustainable and lasting peace.

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