

Report in the 'Bridge of Peace' Ceremony held March 6th 2010 in The Hague, Netherlands

Rita Salaris-Lichtenberg

March 6, 2010

Chair of WFWP NL



The theme of the BOP Ceremony: 'Towards a World of Peace & Spirituality'.

The event was held in a church building in The Hague called Triumfator Church.

Two guest speakers spoke on the theme of the Int. Day of the Women ('Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities; Progress for All') but also mentioned the motto of the year 2010 given by the UN 'The year for the Rapprochement of Cultures'.

Both guest speakers were very accomplished. Mrs. Els Barkema – Sala lived 25 yrs in Japan and has her own business in counselling in the Netherlands now. She speaks many languages such as Italian, Spanish, German, English and Japanese which helps her in her work with people from all different backgrounds. Mrs. José van Hussen worked 25 yrs for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in the Netherlands in different

departments. For 2 yrs she was temporary Ambassador in Zimbabwe. She worked in Sudan, Jordan and Ghana. Currently she is the Chair of the Board of Musicians without Borders (www.musicianswithoutborders.nl). She showed a project in Srebrenica called 'Roses for Srebrenica'. This short film you can watch on the website: www.helenbotman.com/MWB/RFS.html.

The MC for the evening was Mrs. Fatma Aktas, an Ambassador for Peace. She is the director of Selamnetwerk.nl and has received a special recognition from the Turkish government for her work. She is also political active with the Christian Democratic Party in The Hague.

Mrs. Lisa Janssen introduced the meaning of the Bridge of Peace Ceremony and also guided everyone through the ceremony. Her talk was very well received. You could hear a very deep silence. Before she spoke we showed 'Mothers Heart' taken from www.uptv.org.



The evening was very wonderful with 13 Bridges made, a beautiful banner made by second generation Joyce Koetsier and a wonderful Norwegian song by Mrs. Elfrid Langenes. In the program a total of 26 women participated and 4 brothers supported with technic, transport and photography. Of the 26 women 4 were our Ambassadors for Peace and 3 new Ambassadors for Peace were appointed. Different religions were represented: Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Buddhist.

The victory cake made by Mrs. Donna Martijn was cut by seven Peace Ambassadors. The spiritual world has helped us greatly!