

## WFWP USA: Love Can Build a Bridge, The Bridge of Peace

Susan Felsenthal Janer  
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The Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), founded in 1992 by Reverend Sun Myung Moon and Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon, began with the proclamation of the Age of Women. The Bridge of Peace, WFWP's signature project, was first initiated in Korea to reconcile the once-enemy nations of Japan and Korea. Women set aside their feelings of resentment and fear to embrace each other with love and reconciliation. The inaugural event was marked by tears of pain, sorrow, and repentance, which facilitated the healing process for many participants.



I personally experienced a profound healing journey when I traveled to Washington, D.C., in 1995 to cross the Bridge of Peace with a Japanese woman during the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. My father, a U.S. Army medic in the Philippine Islands during the war, harbored resentment towards the

Japanese. However, meeting a Japanese woman who traveled to meet me, and witnessing her sincere repentance on behalf of her people, moved my heart. I knew this simple action of meeting her had the power to heal even my father's heart.



On May 26, 2024, in South Gate, California, we celebrated the Bridge of Peace ceremony once again. Eighty people attended this event, co-sponsored by the South Gate Multicultural Women's Club, the South Gate Chamber of Commerce, and the Women's Federation for World Peace. Many businesses, service clubs, and community members generously contributed to cover the expenses. The event, held from 11 AM to 2 PM, featured a catered lunch of authentic Mexican food.



The Keynote Speaker, Mrs. Maria Davila, the current Vice Mayor of South Gate, spoke about the critical role of women in world peace. Mrs. Davila, whom I have known for three decades, emphasized the importance of women's roles and stated, "Women's role is very important, and none of us would be here if there were no women." She added that despite the world's problems, crossing a bridge of peace can make

the world a better place, as peace starts with each of us.



Entertainment was provided by "The Pure Water Family Singers," whose rendition of "Love Can Build A Bridge" moved everyone with their beautiful voices and sincere enthusiasm. I spoke about the history of the Bridge of Peace, explaining that participating in and crossing the Bridge is a significant step towards world peace. The simple ceremony, involving bowing in respect and repentance, offering a flower as a sign of love and friendship, and embracing each other, carries deep meaning. Through this act, we inspire others to do the same.



After crossing the Bridge of Peace, attendees received certificates proclaiming them as peace partners and had time to get acquainted. The event concluded with a raffle, including a sailboat ride for four, where everyone received a free ticket for a chance to win.



I extend my gratitude to all who helped make this event possible: Chamber of Commerce Director Ana Elizarraras and her staff, Maria Davila and the Multicultural Women's Club, sound technician Ori Rodriguez, caterer Yoland Evora, the singers from the LA Family Church, M.C. Megan Robles, and all the volunteers. Special thanks to my friends from San Diego and to my daughter, Vanesa Janer, who did an amazing job as the event photographer. Thank you to all who attended. I love you all.

