

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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“Eating with the fullest pleasure—pleasure, that is, that does not depend on ignorance—is perhaps the profoundest enactment of our connection with the world. In this pleasure, we experience and celebrate our dependence and our gratitude, for we are living from mystery, from creatures we did not make and powers we cannot comprehend.”

—Wendell Berry

I am pleased to present the Summer 2024 issue of *The Peace Chronicle*. The theme for this issue is food. Food is a source of peace and conflict, power and slavery, celebration and sorrow, pleasure and pain, art and science, hope and despair. Wars have been waged over food, and communities bond with food. Food is a chronograph of our life from birth to death. Food connects us to our ancestors and constructs new connections and cultures. Join us in exploring the many facets of food and the relationship between food and peace. We are seeking submissions of short articles, essays, stories, poetry, and art focused on food and its meaning to different segments of society.

The preceding paragraph was adapted from the “Call for Papers” for this edition of *The Peace Chronicle*; the submissions certainly lived up to the call. Some of us think about peace as the absence of conflict, while others think about positive peace, a state of harmony, tranquility, and connection. As I reflect on the submissions, I notice a common theme of the latter definition, particularly connection. Connection to each other, our communities, our cultures, and the cultures of other people. Connection to our inner selves, our desires, and beliefs as well as a connection to food itself and the mysterious forces that create the food we eat.

Conversely, among the submissions are examples of how the war in Gaza and climate change in Zimbabwe threaten to break down these connections by destroying their food systems, their communities, and their very existence. Yet we see hope to counter these

destructive forces through food movements such as refugee kitchens, community gardens, farm cooperatives, the Landless Workers Movement, and socially responsible investing. These are just a sampling of the plethora of food movements we can outwardly engage in to promote harmony, tranquility, and connection.

I chose the article "Food Peace" to begin this edition because the author challenges us to look inward to create peace from food. She asks us to contemplate, cultivate, and connect our relationship with our food. This issue abounds with examples of how painters, poets, chefs, therapists, photographers, writers, peace activists, and theologians embark on their inward journey to connect with food, which reinforces and magnifies their outward actions to create peace.

The final submission, "Book Review: The Spirit of Soul Food: Race, Faith, and Food Justice," is also an invitation to look inward and contemplate our relationship with people, land, and other living creatures. For it is this inward journey that begins the practice of reimagining a world of connection and peace through food and embarking on an outward practice of activism. I hope this issue of *The Peace Chronicle* inspires you, as it has inspired me, to strengthen and deepen your commitment to peace through food.
