



Photo: Rebecca Shelley (on the left) with a friend

“When European nations chose to engulf themselves in the flames of the Great War during the summer of 1914, most Americans were prepared to hew to Wilson’s admonitions to avoid the conflagration. Over time both Wilson and the majority of Americans found it difficult to remain on the high moral ground of absolute neutrality. By April of 1917, most found it impossible to resist the allure of intervention on the grounds of making the world safe for democracy and the hopes of building a lasting peace. A few committed pacifists held firm in their convictions that war was inherently immoral and refused to back the American war effort. It took tremendous courage to stick to these abstract ideals in the face of a public, zealous as all new converts, now committed to Allied victory...”¹

¹ Bentley Historical Library Archives, University of Michigan, <http://bentley.umich.edu/research/topics/pacifism>

PeaceWays was founded by Rebecca Shelley, a Professor at the University of Michigan, who was later named the “peace poet.” Shelley not only was committed to establishing peace and democracy, but married a German conscientious objector to WWI. Rebecca was in a circle of literary friends and feminists committed to peace. Despite persecution, Shelley and others remained dedicated to non-violence throughout their lives. Shelley lived in a natural setting in rural Michigan where she wrote poetry and worked for peace until her passing in 1984.

PeaceWays was refounded in 1989 and continues to seek peaceful solutions in a world torn apart by war.

“Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek but a means by which we arrive at that goal.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Nonviolence is a weapon of the strong.”

“Whenever you are confronted with an opponent, Conquer him with love.”

Mahatma Gandhi



PeaceWays Mission :

- To Foster Understanding
- To Encourage Ideas on How to Achieve Peace
- Mediation for Peaceful Solutions
- Promoting Peace
- Learning Peace Ways

PeaceWays encourages young people thinking of joining the military to seek an alternative, non-violent way to serve your country and build democracy.



American Delegation to the
International Congress of Women,
The Hague (The Netherlands), 1915

The Womens Peace Group Coalition, including Suffrage Associations, Study and Women's Social Clubs, the Women's Peace Party, the Universal Peace Union and others, visited The Hague to try to establish world peace in 1915.

Rebecca Shelley, is in the second row from the top, listed as #31.

"There is no way to peace, peace is the way."

A.J.Muste

"When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace."

Jimi Hedrix

"If you wish to experience peace, provide peace for another."

Tenzin Gyatso

Peaceways on the Internet:

<http://www.peaceways.homestead.com>

Other Resources:

Peace Quotes:

<http://thinkexist.com/quotations/peace/>

Fellowship of Reconciliation:

<http://forusa.org/>

The American Friends Service Committee:

<http://afsc.org/>

Site listings for peace groups: (extensive)

<http://www.swarthmore.edu/Library/peace/peacewebsite/scpcWebsite/Documents/ResourcesPeaceOrgs>

PeaceWays is a non-denominational group of people linked by their commitment and love of peace and dedication to living in a peaceful way.

There is no membership dues or fees of any kind. The only requirement is to seek peace, to live in peace and harmony with others, and to spread the good news of your peaceful heart with love into the world.