



Reconciliation Leaders facilitate the
Peacebuilding Process of Reconciliation to
develop political will as it evolves into a Global
Mediation and Reconciliation Service for the
Global Problematique

Faithfully following my leading in the United Nations for thirty years as the [Celebration model](#) evolved into the Peacebuilding Process of Reconciliation to Develop Political Will ([Peacebuilding Process](#)), I found the Peacebuilding Process could be used in in local, national and international settings as a way to make peace using soul force not armed force. People most affected by a challenge are part of the planning team to find their own solution. In every Peacebuilding Process, coalitions for the common good result in Rousseau's definition of [Political Action](#). The Peacebuilding Process evolved into a [Global Mediation and Reconciliation Service](#) for the [global problematique](#), an invited [presentation](#) at the Hague Appeal for Peace in 1999.

Political will is defined by Rousseau's "will of the people."

"Always one to bring the spiritual to the practical," My Soul's Journey to Redefine Leadership --Virginia Swain

Preparatory events:

- New Visions for Business, Mystic, CT, 1984
- Performing four marriage ceremonies, beginning in 1985-present
Letting Go Ritual, Guilford, CT 1986
- Remarks at a *Living Economy* event with The Other Economic Summit, San Francisco, CA, 1986
- Consultant, Exceptional Cancer Patients, New Haven, CT 1987-88

Implementations:

- Celebration of the Children of the World: A Model for Building Global
 - Community, 1992 (Master's Thesis, Lesley University, 1993). **Political Action**: Support for the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Chapters 24-26 of Agenda, 21, the blueprint for the Environment coming out of the Earth Summit, 1992. A Coalition of 60 UN agencies, departments and NGOs was formed to support the event, endorsed by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali.

- A Global Liturgy Parliament of the World's Religions, 1993, with the Rev. Dr.
 - Jean Wright. **Political Action**: public apology for slavery and racism; building solidarity between people of different religions in a global liturgy.
- Re-visioning the Relationship between men and women. 1993-94: **Political Action**: addressing war (and healing) between men and women as a root cause of war with Dr. Joseph Baratta.
- Harvard University School of Public Health's Conference, Cambridge, MA, 1994, on Violence, Human Rights and Health with health care providers and physicians. "A Peacebuilding Process to Develop Political Will: Healing the Whole Through its Parts, with Dr. Patrice Brodeur. **Political Action**: Consciousness Raising.
- Two consultations in severely conflicted churches in Diocese of Massachusetts, 1994. **Political Action**: teaching conflict skills to deeply divided parishioners. Experience de-escalating and teaching interpersonal and systemic conflict management and the role of the unconscious.
- International Institute for Peace, Vienna, Austria, 1994: "The Interrelationship between Individual and State for Peacebuilding" and Agenda for Peace and NGOs Conference, Vienna. **Political Action**: Building solidarity and mobilization of non-governmental organizations.
- Co-Founder, Coalition for a Strong United Nations, 1994-99. **Political Action**: Education of Americans through conferences on global issues in partnership with the Kennedy Library.
- A Global Liturgy: The Wedding of Virginia Swain and Joseph Baratta, 1995. **Political Action**: healing the relationship between man and woman.
- Faneuil Hall 4th of July Weekend with World Peace Prayer Society, 1996. **Political Action**: July 4th peace ceremony instead of celebrating war.
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights 50th Anniversary Celebration in the USA, 1998. **Political Action**: Promote Article 1 in a national coalition.
- Co-convener, Rwanda Project preparing for the American Psychological Association Ethnogenicide Division Conference, 1999. **Political Action**: calling

- for responsibility among high level officials for complicity in the genocide with attention to addressing the cycle of violence.
- Invited Speaker, Hague Appeal for Peace, Hague, Netherlands. Establishing Professional and NGO Services for Mediation, Reconciliation and Humanitarian Aid at the UN: A Proposed Global Mediation and Reconciliation Service presented on Building an Effective World Security System Panel, Enhancing the Capacity of the United Nations to Prevent and Resolve Armed Conflict. Presented at the Hague Appeal for Peace, The Netherlands. For the Transforming Violent Conflict Strand, Friday, May 14, 1999. **Political Action:** Demonstrating a way for peaceful means of dispute settlement.
- Debriefing Peacebuilders, United Nations Development Program Exit Conference.
 - Reconciling peacemakers to their process as peacebuilders, Mindanao, Philippines, 1999. **Political Action:** Healing flawed American development policy and practice views. The silver bullet approach to development, without a sustained effort, is damaging and disempowering to the people most needing support.
- Refugees from ex-Yugoslavia in Boston, 1999. **Political Action:** Supported release of ancient tensions creating solidarity among former enemies.
- Global Movement for the Culture of Peace and Culture of Peace Initiative, 2007- present. United Nations, NY and Worcester, MA. **Political Action:** offering program of action for a peace system to replace war system.
- Invited Speaker, State of the World Forum, 1999 and 2001. **Political Action:** Strengthening the United Nations by offering Reconciliation Leadership and a Peacebuilding Process of Reconciliation to Develop Political Will. Introducing a new definition of politics and political will facilitated by Reconciliation Leaders.
- The Interrelationship between Individual and State for Peacebuilding and Agenda for Peace and NGOs Conference, Vienna, Austria, 1994. **Political Action:** Building solidarity and mobilization of non-governmental organizations.
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights 50th Anniversary Celebration in the USA, National Coordinating Committee for UDHR50, Washington, D.C., 1998.

- **Political Action:** Promote Article 1 of UDH supporting sister and brotherhood in a Washington-based national coalition.
- Interview with Cosmos Lam about the effect of Americans leaving landmines in his country, Uganda, 1999. <https://vimeo.com/566580543>. **Political Action:** Awakening American consciences to the ways we create havoc around the world.
- Peer Mediation Program Mediator, Burncoat Senior High, Worcester, MA, 2000-2005. **Political Action:** school safety and restorative justice.
- Friends of Virginia Swain: Restoring Faith in Leadership (2012-present). **Political Action:** Offering opportunities and perspectives for those willing to advance the world's soul with one-day trips to the United Nations from New England on various global issues, 2007-2013. **Political Action:** To educate national citizens to become global citizens. <https://global-leader.org/a-spiritual-renaissance-for-our-global-soul/>
 - **One-day trips** to the United Nations from New England on various global issues, 2009-2013. **Political Action:** To educate national citizens to become global citizens.
<http://www.socialweb.net/Events/searchres.lasso?title=United+%20Nations&datebeg%20in=04%2F13%2F2004&dateend=08%2F11%2F2013%20&placecategory=&place=&userd%20istance=0&userzip=01609&format%20=20&interest=157&audience=1&-search>
- Institute for Global Leadership, Life Leadership Service Awards, 2007-present. **Political Action:** To encourage and highlight life-long service oriented vocational leaders.
- Art as a Personal and Professional Journey to Redefine Leadership, Sprinkler Factory Gallery, May 2016. **Political Action:** Introduce expressive art as a way for people to find and claim their soul qualities.
- National Coalition of Deliberation and Dialogue Presentation, 2016. **Political Action:** Introducing a new definition of political will facilitated by Reconciliation Leaders.
- Art as Prayer, St. Stephen's Church, 2016. **Political Action:** Introducing a new methodology of strengthening prayerful people for political will, the will of the people.

- Sprinkler Factory Show on Masks, 2016. **Political Action:** Introducing a way for people to find and claim their soul qualities, a step to redefine leadership.
- A Spiritual Renaissance for America's Soul, 2017-present. **Political Action:** With the help of the Phoenix, American society begins to be rebuilt with the online America's Soul Café, one soul at a time, after the divided election and generations of disenfranchisement and divisions. <https://global-leader.org/americas-soul-cafes/>, <https://global-leader.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Iamboard-ppt-for-April-10.pptx>
- Imaging a New America: Racial Reconciliation, 2023. Trust Network and National Association of Community Mediation. With Shannon Paige, Dr. Sarah Sayeed, and Dr. Sam Onapa. **Political Action:** With the help of Imaging, taught to me by Elder Elise Boulding, I help people and groups learn that we can't resolve a challenge at the level it was created, <https://virginiaswain.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/trust-network-march.pdf> <https://global-leader.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/TRUST-Network-Imaging-7-1-1.pdf> <https://global-leader.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Remembrances-of-Elise-Boulding-81710-3.pdf>. Dr. Sayeed and Virginia Swain introduce Reconciliation Leadership and Imaging: <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/442001261>

For more:

Global Mediation and Reconciliation Service

<https://global-leader.org/global-mediation-and-reconciliation-service/> and

http://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl_gmrservices.html

Reconciliation Leadership

<https://virginiaswain.com/leadership-programs/reconciliation-leadership/>

and <https://www.global-leader.org>

Peacebuilding Process of Reconciliation to Develop Political Will

<https://global-leader.org/sacred-container/> and

http://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl_gmrservices.html

Sacred Container

<https://global-leader.org/sacred-container/>

Selected Publications, Media, and Presentations

Sample Publications

- “Report on the Earth Summit,” Connecticut Forest and Parks Association
- Newsletter, 1992
- “Report on the Earth Summit,” Episcopal Diocese of CT, 1992
- “Celebration for the Children of the World: A Model for Building Global Community,” unpublished M.A. thesis, Lesley University, Cambridge, MA, 1993
- “The Interrelationship of Individual and State Cooperation for Peacebuilding,” International Institute for Peace, Agenda for Peace and NGOs Conference, Vienna, 1994
- Journal articles on United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio 1992)
- United Nations World Social Summit (Copenhagen 1995) Conference on Women’s Issues (Beijing 1996)
- “International Cooperation: Its Roots in Individual Responsibility,” presented at Comparative International Education Society Conference: Global Ascendancy, Local Challenges, Buffalo, 1996
- “A Peacebuilding Process of Reconciliation,” Conference on Re-imagining the Urban Environment: Building Collaborative Relationships in the Inner City, State University of New York at Buffalo, published in proceedings of Re-Imagining the Urban Environment: Building Collaborative Relationships in the Inner City, State University of New York at Buffalo, 1997
- “In Search of Salvation [Peace Corps Service in Liberia],” in Chieko Juriki, *The Legacy of Kennedy*, Japan, 1997
- “The United Nations, Servant Leadership and The Peacebuilding Institute,” Commentary in *Abolishing War: Dialogue with Peace Scholars Elise Boulding and Randall Forsberg*, Boston Research Center, 1998
- “The United Nations, Servant Leadership and a Peacebuilding Institute,” in Boston Research Center for the 21st Century, *Abolishing War*, November 1998 “A Vision of 21st

- Century Transformational Leadership,” in Global Education Associates, *Breakthrough Magazine*, May 1998
- “The Evolution of a Peacemaker,” *Spirit of Change Magazine*, 1998 “A Peacebuilding Process of Reconciliation,” International Organization Development Network Conference, Montreal, 2002
- *A Mantle of Roses: A Woman’s Journey Home to Peace*. Xlibris, 2004. <https://www.amazon.com/Mantle-Roses-Womans-Journey-Peace/dp/1413408389>
- “Reconciliation as Policy: A Capacity-Building Proposal for Renewing Leadership and Development.” Prepared for Workshop on Humiliation and Violent Conflict, Columbia University, New York, at Columbia University with Dr. Sarah Sayeed, 2005
https://www.humiliationstudies.org/documents/SwainSayeedReconciliationasPolicyN_Y06meeting.pdf
- “A Leadership and Practice to Reconcile Challenges in a Post-September 11th World.” Prepared for the Workshop on Humiliation and Violent Conflict, Columbia University, New York, 14–15 December 2006, with Dr. Sarah Sayeed
https://www.humiliationstudies.org/documents/SwainSayeedLeadershipChallenges_NY06meeting.pdf
- “Turning to the Light of God Within,” published in the *Daily Word*, December 2006 https://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl_DailyWord.html
- “As I See It: A Remedy for Political Incivility,” published on the Commentary page of the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, October 30, 2006
https://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl_AsIseeit.html

Sample other Media

- America’s Soul Community, January 2017-present <https://global-leader.org/americas-soul-cafes/>
- Virginia Swain’s Blog, January 2017-present. <https://virginiaswain.com/blog/>
- “Turning to the Light of God Within to Restore Faith in Humanity,” Contribution to *Immersed in Prayer*, published by *What Canst Thou Say*, Fall 2017
- Institute for Global Leadership Life Leadership Service 15th Anniversary Awards filmed on <https://www.wccatv.com/video/imagine->

[worchester/IMAGINEWORCESTER101](#), 2014

- <https://vimeo.com/725252167>, 2021

- “A Step in the Right Direction,” by Corey Oliver, *Worcester Magazine*. Virginia Swain advances Worcester Public Health Initiative for the Community Health and Improvement Plan on Health Equity, Changing Resistant Systems and Institutional Racism, February 22, 2013.
- “Cable show offers children worldwide forum”. *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, January 11, 2013
<https://www.telegram.com/story/news/local/worcester/2013/01/11/cable-show-offers-children-worldwide/49160801007/>
- Imagine Worcester and the World Television Show, WCCA-TV, 2008 to Present <https://www.wccatv.com/video/imagine-worcester> “Speakers at Clark forum discuss universal right to peace”. The Coalition for the Human Right to Peace Conference at Clark University, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, February 19, 2012
- <https://www.telegram.com/story/news/local/north/2012/02/19/speakers-at-clark-forum-discuss/49730500007/>
- “Seeking Original UN Goals: Couple Launches Peace Coalition,” by Melissa McKeon, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, June 30, 2011
<https://www.telegram.com/story/news/local/south-west/2011/06/30/seeking-original-un-goals/49983559007/>
- “Human Rights Work Lauded: United Nations Under-Secretary-General Speaks at Ceremony,” by Lee V. Gaines, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, March 31, 2011
<https://www.telegram.com/story/news/local/worcester/2011/03/31/human-rights-work-lauded/50144448007/>
- Interview on World Peace, Virginia Swain appearing on Channel 13 Soapbox, December 10, 2010
<https://www.wccatv.com/video/soapbox/soapbox729>
- Interview with Virginia Swain by Patricia Varley on the *Edgewalkers Internet Radio Show*: Leading from Your Life’s Passion: Fuel for Tough Times, September 2010 Interview of Virginia Swain by the *Worcester Women’s Oral History Project (WVOHP)*, 2008
<https://www.wwohp.org/interview-list/virginia-swain>
- “Can A City Change the Way It Thinks? A Peace Movement Launches in Worcester,” by Noah R. Bombard, *Worcester Magazine*, November 15, 2007
- “As I See It-A Remedy for Political Incivility,” by Virginia Swain, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, October 30, 2006.

https://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl_Aslseeit.html

- “Finding peace through inner strength: Worcester writer helps others chart course in turbulent times,” by Pamela Sacks, Worcester *Telegram & Gazette*, September 1, 2006.

- [https://www.telegram.com/story/news/local/north/2006/09/01/finding-peace-through inner-strength/53055895007/](https://www.telegram.com/story/news/local/north/2006/09/01/finding-peace-through-inner-strength/53055895007/)
- “Dedicated Visionaries Keep Faith in World Governance,” by Albert Southwick, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, March 19, 2006
https://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl_DedicatedVisionaries.html
- “Learning to Lead in Harmony,” By Art Simas, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, March 14, 2005 <http://peacecorpsonline.org/messages/messages/467/2030036.html>
- “Local Expert Backs UN,” Mark Melady, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, December 26, 2004.
https://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl_localexpert.html “Partners in Peace,” Salve Regina University, September 2002.
https://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl_partnersinpeace.html
- “Virginia Swain: Returned Peace Corps Volunteer,” One on One by Allen W. Fletcher, *Worcester Magazine*, November 8, 2001
- Human Right to Peace Coalition Inaugural Event, Life Leadership Awards Ceremony, Briarwood, 2011
<https://www.thefreelibrary.com/Human+rights+work+lauded%3B+United+Nations+u+nder+%20secretary-general...-a0252957440>
- “Why Mission Statements Matter for Leadership,” *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, August 29, 2007 <https://global-leader.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Mission-Possible-by-Virginia-Swain-in-Telegram.pdf>
- “Healthy Companies Follow Through on Strategy,” *Worcester Business Journal*, 2007
<https://www.wbjournal.com/article/biz-tips-healthy-companies-follow-through-on-strategy> “What Price Workplace Conflict? Injuring the Bottom Line,” *Worcester Business Journal*, 2006
- <https://www.wbjournal.com/article/whats-the-price-of-workplace-conflict-injuring-the-bottom-line>

Sample Presentations

- Coming into the labyrinth
<https://virginiaswain.com/your-wisdom-years>
- Artist Talks, Worcester, MA, 2016-present.
- Sprinkler Factory Gallery (2016)
- The Willows at Worcester (2017)
- Overlook Retirement Community (2017)

- Briarwood Retirement Community (2018)
- Culture of Peace Initiative, Worcester, MA, 2007-present

- https://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl_initiative_splash.html
- Reconciliation Leaders for Sustainable Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations, NY, 2013
 - <https://global-leader.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/17-October-2013-UNDP.pdf>
- United Nations One-Day Trips on global issues from Worcester, MA 2009-2013
<http://www.socialweb.net/Events/searchres.lasso?title=United+%20Nations&datebeg%20in=04%2F13%2F2004&dateend=08%2F11%2F2013%20&placecategory=&place=&userd%20istance=0&userzip=01609&format%20=20&interest=157&audience=1&-search>
- Visionary Leadership on United Nations Day, Presentation at United Nations, New York, 24 October 2011
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxWxKwdOdfPudjBGWDJsSkp4NjQ/view?ths=true>
- Commemorating Security Council Resolution 1325, Women and Peace and Security New Perspectives on Peace and Security Wednesday, October 13, 2010, United Nations, NY
 - <https://www.peacewomen.org/content/commemorating-security-council-resolution-1325-women-and-peace-and-security-new-perspectives>
- Collaborative partner of the Combatants for Peace Middle East Fighters for Nonviolence Courage of Conscience Speaker Tour. Introduced Combatants for Peace, Yaniv Reshev and Bassam Aramin, to the United Nations, 2009. Watch my television interview with Yaniv and Bassam
 - <https://www.wccatv.com/video/imagine-worcester/imagineworcester10>
- “A Leadership and Practice to Reconcile Challenges in a Post-September 11th World,” Virginia Swain and Sarah Sayeed. Humiliation and Human Dignity Studies Conference, Columbia University, 2006
 - <https://www.humiliationstudies.org/documents/SwainSayeedLeadershipChallengesNY06meeting.pdf>
- Worcester Learning Group with Michael Halperin, 2006-2007
- “Reconciliation as Policy: A capacity-building proposal for renewing leadership and development,” Virginia Swain and Sarah Sayeed. Humiliation & Human

- Dignity Conference, Columbia University, 2005
 - <https://www.humiliationstudies.org/documents/SwainSayeedReconciliationasPolicyNY06meeting.pdf>
- Consultation in the Mindanao, Philippines and with former Yugoslavian Refugees during the War, Society for Intercultural Education, Training and Research, 2005
- American Psychological Association Presentation: Consultation for Rwanda with Rev. Erisa Mutabaazi and others, 1999
- Interview with Lam from Uganda on America and Landmines, 1999
<https://vimeo.com/566580543>
- “Reconciliation Leadership for Global Integrity, Harmonization of Nations and Political Will” paper presented at the State of the World Forum on panel: The United Nations in Ten Years; The United Nations in One Hundred Years, San Francisco, 1999
- “Establishing a Professional Mediation and Reconciliation Service: Building a World Security System to Transform 21st Century Challenges,” paper from a panel presentation in Transforming Violent Conflict Strand, Hague Appeal for Peace, May 1999, Hague Appeal Proceedings, The Netherlands, 1999
 - [https://global-leader.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Hague-Appeal-for Peace-1999-Call-for-a-Wold-Security-System.docx](https://global-leader.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Hague-Appeal-for-Peace-1999-Call-for-a-Wold-Security-System.docx)
- Presentation on “Celebration of the Children of the World as a Large-Scale Multinational Change Intervention,” New York Organizational Development Network, New York, 1993
 - https://global-leader.org/global-mediation-and-reconciliation_service/celebration/

For more, visit <https://virginiaswain.com/speaking/>