

For Immediate Release

Bob Tancig
Coordinator
Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice
352-468-3295
325-214-1778
bob@fcj.org
www.fcj.org

The Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice announces:

Weaving a Culture of Peace: The 2006 Convocation of the Florida Peace and Justice Community

To be held June 2-4, 2006

At the Paramount Center Hotel, Gainesville, Florida

Florida Peace Movement Gathering in Gainesville to Advance a Culture of Peace in Florida

Gainesville, FL - May, 18 2006 – Floridians working for Peace, Justice, & Environmental Sustainability will be gathering in Gainesville, Florida the weekend of June 2nd thru June 4th to share their vision and strategies for a more peaceful and sustainable future for all residents of Florida. They will be supported and inspired in their work by several major national leaders who will be on hand to offer hope and encouragement to continue the struggle for a better future for our children and grandchildren. In addition, many leaders of community projects and organizations from around the state will be conducting panel discussions of the “best practices” they have developed to advance a culture of peace in their own neighborhoods. **“Our coming together will help bond the network of individuals and organizations that will bring forth a less violent, more peaceful, more sustainable, and more just society,”** said John X. Linnehan, Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice President, in his invitation to Floridians all over the state to attend the convocation.

Featured speakers include:

David Korten presenting **“*The Great Turning: Toward a Culture of Peace*”**

Dr. Korten is an author and leader in transformational social change. His address will reflect his new book, *The Great Turning: From Empire to Earth Community* (May, 2006). He is best known as the author of *When Corporations Rule the World* (1995), and as board chair and co-founder of the *Positive Futures Network*, which publishes *Yes!* magazine."

Patricia Mische presenting: **“*Weaving the Values that Sustain Us*”**

Dr. Mische is a co-founder and President Emerita of *Global Education Associates*, a network of people in some 90 countries collaborating in research and educational programs related to the advancement of peace, social justice, human rights, ecological integrity, and democratic participation for all the world's peoples.

Bruce Gagnon receiving the 2006 Dr. Spock Peacemaker Award

Bruce Gagnon is Coordinator of the *Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space* and was the first coordinator for the *Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice*. He travels the world working to stop US plans to weaponize and pollute space with dangerous nuclear materials.

Other featured presentations will include:

Huong, Vietnamese-born war refugee, peace activist and internationally renowned artist will display her 200' "Peace Mural" in the main ballroom of the Paramount Plaza Hotel on Saturday and Sunday of the Convocation. This dramatic and highly acclaimed art work will be open for viewing by the public, free of charge, on Saturday, 4 to 6:30 P.M. The other pieces of Artist Huong's extraordinary talent are on display in the 'Art, War & Peace Museum' in Jensen Beach, Florida and in the 'Art Palace,' Miami. The Florida Coalition is pleased and honored to have Huong as part of our Convocation.

Workshops on best practices and action campaigns identified during the FCPJ

Mapping A Culture of Peace Community Dialogue process

Presentation of the Dr. Benjamin Spock Peacemaker Award

A visit to the FCPJ Teaching Farm including a picnic lunch and tour

Opportunities for networking and organizing among people from across the state

Regional Caucuses on Sunday morning

Development of a "Platform for Action"

For more information please go to the Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice web site at www.fcpj.org or call Bob Tancig at 352-468-3295

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