

THE IMAGINE GARDEN

OUR WORLD IS CHANGING — WE MUST CHANGE WITH IT

Expansion of the media and the evolution of the World Wide Web now provide an instantaneous window into each other's beliefs, conflicts, strengths and needs that was unimaginable even 10 years ago. The expanding reach of terrorists and their ability to wreak destruction and havoc creates a challenge for us to see things differently, and to find the common ground that will honor and serve us all. The human race is called to embrace the process and promise of transformation — to change from the inside out — to think new thoughts and create new models that even our current, rapidly evolving reality can barely forecast.

The collective circumstances and realities that have led to terrorist events, in this country and abroad, suggest that we may need to examine our thinking and to re-examine life's purpose and our priorities. Only change of this depth will help us find a common ground from which we can make life-enhancing personal and collective choices and decisions.

One of the greatest minds of all time, Albert Einstein, said, "We cannot solve a problem with the same level of thinking with which we created the problem." The Imagine Garden is being created as a spiritual resource to help people change their thinking. The Imagine Garden prayer — *May every mind remember God, may every mind awaken*—and its mission, *Awakening to Our Oneness* — reflect that commitment. Because we cannot expect different results while using the same patterns of thinking, the Imagine Garden therefore welcomes and honors persons of all faith traditions to meditate, contemplate and pray.

AT THE LEVEL OF THOUGHT, WE ARE ONE

Increasing research reported in independent investigative journals such as *The Journal of Crime and Justice*, *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* and *The Journal of Mind and Behavior* points to what is called a Unified Field of Consciousness, to which we all contribute — either by intent or by default. Our contributions to this field can be positive, constructive, helpful and harmless OR negative, destructive, worthless and harmful. We can all choose the range of thoughts to “play out” in our minds — to tune in to. Meditation has been shown to be a powerful way to access the Field, to have a positive effect on and intentionally support ourselves and each other, and to put thoughts into the range of harmless to constructive. When our thoughts are within this range, our ideas, attitudes and actions are also in that range.

The Imagine Garden's prayer is “May every mind remember God.” When we remember God, our minds dwell on our shared innocence and worthiness, and our actions and attitudes reflect our capacity for goodness. When we remember God, being helpful and harmless to all others and ourselves seems like a natural and attractive choice. Any faith tradition can embrace this theme.

Each Garden will include a permanent outdoor display of the symbols of many faith traditions and will be open to the community at large. The first faiths to be symbolized are Bahai, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jain, Jewish, Muslim, Native African, Native American, Pagan, Shinto, Sikh, Taoist and Zoroastrian. Each symbol will be crafted in a large circle of mosaic tiles in colors traditional to the faith it represents. There will be a tall, multi-level waterfall to enhance the sights and sounds of the Garden; statues of three toddlers, representing several racial and ethnic groups, will grace the top of the falls. One will pour water from a cornucopia. A two-section prayer wall engraved with *May Every Mind Remember God* (or *May Every Mind Awaken* for Buddhists) in the languages associated with the faith traditions will stand behind one of the stone walls

seating areas. A large labyrinth and an octagonal gazebo, in which people can sit for prayer and meditation, will grace the center of the garden. Gateways will symbolize entry into a sacred space, e.g., a Torii Gate from the Shinto tradition. There will be a permanent roster of contributors who helped create the Garden.

Multigenerational teams of teens and adults, including people from each faith tradition will create the symbols. A professional mosaic artist will guide the work. Each faith will bring a brief prayer relating to the idea of seeing our oneness or the theme, *May Every Mind Remember God*. Members of the invited faith traditions have already committed to take part — both in the creation of the symbols AND as prayer partners.

A COMMUNITY TRAINING GROUND AND RESOURCE FOR BRIDGE BUILDERS

As we mature, we recognize that the differences that seem to set us apart—religious and personal beliefs, racial, ethnic and cultural background, and even life-style choices—are simply variations on the human experience. We are one in Spirit. As we recognize our underlying oneness, we see that relationships are more important than issues, and people are more important than things, and are led to settle our differences with the wisdom that arises from prayer and discussion. *The Imagine Garden* is symbolic of this coming together.

Guided by our stated mission — *Awakening to Our Oneness* — each Garden teaching center will be a training ground for people who can serve as bridge builders to new patterns of thinking and doing. As demonstrated in *The Imagine Garden*, our diverse richness of human experience honors our ethnic and religious diversity and allows it to be a community-gathering place with universal appeal — for fellowship, inspiration, and education.

The very nature of the *Imagine Garden* provides an environment for people of different backgrounds to find a common ground and to mature as bridge builders. The bridge of respect, for example, can be the most important element allowing people having a positive influence on each other. The Bridges of compassion and integrity allow people to be authentic in expressing personal beliefs. The Bridge of trust allows people to listen and communicate at depth. All bridges are all built by people value the worthiness of others. The Garden, a symbol of respect, demonstrates that we value our differences.

JOINED AT THE HEART, WE BECOME THE MESSENGERS OF GOOD

Together, we have the ability and power to call forth the best in each other and thus help transform the planet. The prayers and intentions offered in this one garden can, when joined with other prayers and intentions, have a huge effect on the big picture. Research on the Field of Consciousness indicates that all minds are a part of one unified field of information and energy, and that coherent, directed intention and thought have an internal intelligence and organizing power. Focused prayer can have an effect, even at a distance, on people who are even just beginning to explore different possibilities or to change, grow or make a positive difference.

The Chattahoochee River demonstrates how the power within small, individual parts magnifies when those parts join together to create a larger whole. The Chattahoochee travels 435 miles to its mouth in the Gulf of Mexico. Along the way, its waters serve millions of people. High in North Georgia's Blue Ridge Mountains, you can see where the Chattahoochee begins. But you would need a good map, and perhaps a knowledgeable guide to find the head of this mighty river. The Chattahoochee begins its life as a damp depression on a rocky wooded hillside. That's it—a moist area. A few yards down the hill, several other moist areas have yielded their droplets and you can see a trickle, then soon a

robust trout stream. As it travels, this river is joined repeatedly by other small and large sources of water. Less than 100 miles from its beginning, the Chattahoochee River meets the Buford Dam and has enough volume to generate 195,000 Megawatt-hours of electrical power, and to provide much of the water needed to serve Metro Atlanta.

The prayers offered and the focused intention during the creation and the life of this garden will be joined by many other prayers and intentions to become a vast river of thought with the power to transform our planet. The following poem by Teilhard de Chardin says it well:

*Some day, after mastering the wind, the waves, the tides and gravity,
we shall harness for God the energies of Love.
And then, for the second time in the history of the world,
man will have discovered fire.*

A LIVING LEGACY OF HOPE AND LOVE

The *Imagine Garden* is committed, willing and able to transform the planet with prayer, meditation and contemplation by which every mind can remember God, and every mind can awaken. We invite you to join with us and make a difference. Help us create this enduring living legacy of our intention to focus and harness the energies of Love.

To join the focusing group and/or contribute funds, materials, expertise, and/or time to the *Imagine Garden* contact:

Honey Judith Rubin, Garden Visionary and Director

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A comprehensive view of my background is available at:
<http://www.linkedin.com/in/honeyrubin>

Current team members include:

- Connie Ahalt, international program and project management, global development (references available) 404.786.8126, connie512@comcast.net
- Gerry Venable, award-winning retired architect (specialty in public gardens), 404.997.0069, gerryvenable@yahoo.com
- Ted Worrell, retired assistant comptroller, General Motors; treasurer for Sarah Smith Education Foundation (non-profit), 678-352.9532, tlwrver@aol.com
- Lois Eiler, 404.993.7606 loisinfo@gmail.com and Rhett Smith, 404.729.9201 rhettsmith22@comcast.net, web site development

Support we welcome:

- Your prayers of the Garden and your prayers on behalf of this Garden are now and always will be precious and welcome.
- Distribute the prayer, the cover letter and this proposal to those whose hearts might be touched.
- Donate money for set up costs and for the building of the physical garden (a list of expenses can be provided).

Talent we welcome:

- An attorney to help with the 501(c)(3) and the articles of incorporation.
- A grant writer who can work with Honey Rubin to craft the strong foundation of a grant. Someone who feels captured by the vision of the Garden to help set up a foundation.
- A video director who can capture and assemble images for promotional and educational purposes.
- People who feel led to spread the word through social media and other venues for publicity.