

The Journey of a Sacred Fire - 2008 Update

Here are just a few of the travels of the Peace Fire Coal Bundles

Updated February 1, 2008

- * Afghanistan - Coal bundles were given to Reza Deghati, an award winning Photojournalist for National Geographic Magazine, on a visit to Northeastern Illinois University on April 4, 2006. Reza has been awarded the chevalier medal, France's highest civilian honorary decoration, Legion d'Honneur because of his attempts to develop free speech around the world, and help revive children's rights. He now works with children in the mountains of Afghanistan.
- * Arizona, Flagstaff (Kendrick Park) - Coal bundles were left at Spirit Mountain Ranch, during a snow storm, on March 29, 2007. Located at the base of the San Francisco Peaks Spirit Mountain Ranch is the home, at this time, to eight (8) white buffalo. Jim and Dena Riley are the caretakers and guardians of these sacred animals.
- * Arizona, Sedona - A coal bundle was left at the Amitabha Stupa in the new Tibetan Peace Center on March 30, 2007. The 36-foot high Amitabha Stupa is completely filled with hundreds of millions of prayers for peace, sacred relics, and other ritual objects. An ancient form of sacred Buddhist architecture this beacon of light and virtue functions as a vortex of Enlightened Presence, radiating waves of compassion to all beings. The Amitabha Stupa is at the base of Thunder Mountain where a coal bundle was left near the top on March 29, 2001.
- * Arkansas, Little Rock - A coal bundle was handed to Minnijean Brown Trickey the keynote speaker at the 35th Annual Association for Experiential Education(AEE) International Conference. On September 25, 1957 Minnijean and eight other African American teenagers helped to desegregate Central High School, a seminal event in American history. They are known as the "Little Rock Nine",
- * Arkansas, Little Rock - A coal bundle was placed at the base of the Peace Pole that was planted as part of the closing ceremony to end the 35th Annual Association for Experiential Education (AEE) International Conference on September 27, 2007. The Peace Pole was planted on the Trail of Tears, next to the Arkansas River by Kevin Pride. Thirteen countries were represented at the international gathering.
- * Egypt - In December, 2007, a coal bundle was placed in the Nile River by Ann Wells and other peacekeepers from Chicago. They were on the Nile in the type of sail boat that has been used by the Egyptian people for centuries. They also placed a second coal bundle in Sham el Sheik at the southern tip of the Sinai the land that involved the war between Egypt and Israel.
- * Hawaii, Kauai - Coal bundles were handed to Catherine and Allan Reitow while standing in the Alamo car rental line at the Seattle Airport on July 29, 2006. Allan Reitow is the Director of the Nature Conservancy on Kauai. "Our job is to save the land for future generations. Catherine got goose bumps when she touched the Fire coals.
- * Holland - Martin and Tinike Evans accepted Fire Coal Bundles on July 19, 2007 after a breakfast meeting in Avemore, Scotland. They said, "We will leave the coal bundle in the Florence Nightingale Center in Holland. "
- * Cobden, Illinois - The sacred Fire was lit for the first time at Shawnee Hill, the home of Tony and Rhea Calabrese on October 10, 2007. Tony and Rhea are the caretakers of this special land that has a sacred cave and Drewry Creek. Tony has been visiting the cave for 40 years, and is now the caretaker. Water flowing from the cave creates the head waters of Drewry Creek. The creek is located 20' from the cave entrance. From the mouth of the cave to the east the creek flows into the Missouri River and to the west it flows into the Mississippi River.
- * Illinois, Chicago - World renowned yoga Master Swami Adhyatmanadaji visited Northeastern Illinois University on June 29, 2006. He lit the sacred Fire on the 6th strike. He chanted for a while then turned around three times...one for the past, one for the present, and one for the future. It was a good moment at the Fire with a world master.

- *Illinois, Chicago - The sacred Fire was lit at Northeastern Illinois University for the Avon Breast Cancer Walk on June 3, 2006. Northeastern is the 13.1 mile rest stop for the 3,100 walkers. Carol Garsee stopped by the Fire to receive coals bundles to carry with her on her Cancer Fundraising Ride across the United States.
- *Illinois, Chicago - Coal bundles were given to James Twyman on April 12, 2006 by Patty Mangano. James travels the world as an ambassador for peace. He is guided to do Peace Ceremonies that change the energy in areas.
- *Illinois, Chicago - Fire coal bundles were shared in a Peace Ceremony on Friday, February 10, 2006 at the 17th Annual T.E.A.M. Conference at Northeastern Illinois University. Fire Keepers were invited and asked to join the coals bundles from their sacred fires. Fire coals were carried from ceremonies in Ireland, Peru, Canada, and Lakota Sundance's.
- *Illinois, Chicago - The Fire coals were given to author and keynote speaker Barbara Victor after a Peace Candle Ceremony and talking circle at Northeastern Illinois University on April 4, 2007. It was part of the 12th Annual Asian American Heritage Conference: A Journey to Global Understanding. Focus on Burma (Myanmar), in honor of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the Leader of the National League for Democracy and 1991 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, and the Burmese People. Ms. Victor was asked to present the Fire coals to Suu Kyi, who is under house arrest, when she visits her in Burma.
- *Illinois, Chicago - The sacred Fire was struck at Northeastern by Simon Faulkner from Australia, on September 7, 2006. David and his family were visiting the United States and made arrangements to visit the Fire circle. They created Drumbeat Holyoake; a program to build self esteem in Australian youth using drumming.
- *Illinois, Chicago - The Sacred Fire was struck on November 13, 2007 by Dr. Charles Shabica and two of his students. It was to welcome two of Mother Earth's children from Custer, South Dakota to their new home on the NEIU campus. The 1.8 billion year old feldspar crystals - one is 2.5 tons States. The ceremony was led by Cherokee Elder Momfeather Erickson.
- *Illinois, Chicago - The Fire coals were given to Howard Binder for the Amundsen High School Peace Project, on May 16, 2007. An Oppenheimer grant provided them the funds to put in a 25' fire lodge for talking circles, a peace pole, and a labyrinth. They are the third school in the area to add a Fire circle to their campus.
- * Illinois, Chicago - Yasmine Renney of Northeastern Illinois University, handed the coal bundles to Al Gore on his visit to Chicago, on June 6, 2007. He was in Chicago to discuss his book and his documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" on global warming.
- * Illinois, Chicago - The 3,100 walkers from Avon Breast Cancer Walk stopped at the Fire Circle at Northeastern Illinois University on June 2, 2007. The Fire Circle at Northeastern is the 13.1 mile rest stop for the walkers. It is the fourth year the Fire Circle has been used by the organizers.
- * Illinois, Chicago - President Sharon Hahs lit the Peace Fire on Thursday, September 6, 2007 as part of her inauguration week ceremonies at Northeastern Illinois University.
- * Illinois, Chicago (Skokie) - Fire coals were handed to Rajmohan Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, on September 11, 2006, at Niles North High School. He was the keynote speaker for the "Day of Peace" to remember the five year anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center in New York City. He also acknowledged that today, September 11, 1906, was the 100th Anniversary of when his grandfather Mahatma Gandhi formed a society in India based on nonviolence.
- * Illinois, Chicago (Skokie) - Sue Fosco lit the Sacred Fire on October 17, 2007 at the new Peace Lodge at Niles North High, Skokie, Illinois. The peace fire will be used by all the students in the school.
- * Illinois, LaGrange, Blue Feather Store - Khamba Lama Dr. Natsagdorj was given the coal bundles on June 28, 2007, Khamba Lama was visiting Chicago for a Water Conference at Northeastern Illinois University on June 21, 2007, and to perform an ancient Mongolian water blessing for Lake Michigan on June 29, 2007. Khamba Lama is from the eight medicine Buddha tradition, and the highest ranking lama in his country. To the people of Mongolia he is their Dalai Lama.

- * Indiana, South Bend - A Sacred Fire was lit at Sacred Waters, and a special ceremony was conducted for the women of the Nine Fold in Ireland. Over 80 people gathered to listen and share from their hearts.
- * Ireland, Carrowmore - A Coal Bundle was left at the Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery on July 7, 2007. Carrowmore is one of the oldest and largest of the four megalithic cemeteries with over 30 passage-tombs in an area of one square mile. Excavations suggest this site was occupied around 4000 BC. Carrowmore pre-dates New Grange by nearly 1000 years.
- * Ireland, Drumcliffe - A coal bundle was given to the "Prayer Request" group at St. Columba's Church on July 7, 2007. In 574 St. Columcille founded a monastery here that became one of the principal religious houses in Ireland. The site of St. Columba's church has been the place of Christian pilgrimage for over 1500 years. Drumcliffe is best known world wide as the final resting place of William Butler Yeats (1865 - 1939) where his great-grandfather John Yeats was the rector. His quote is a driving force for our efforts at T.E.A.M., "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a Fire."
- * Ireland, Kilcar - A coal bundle was given to Dennis Lyons of the Du'n Ulu'n House on July 6, 2007. A local historian and teacher of the old Gaelic language he accepted the coal bundles with "glee." Dennis is going to place the coal bundles in the "Valley of the Warriors." It is an ancient site where 200 warriors were killed and buried after a very short battle.
- * Ireland, Kilcar - A coal bundle was left on the top of the 1900' Cliffs of Slieve Leig, and another was placed in the Atlantic ocean at the base of the cliffs. The highest cliffs in Ireland are a very special place where the gulf stream flows past and the whales and dolphins migrate.
- * Ireland, Killarney (Dinis) - We stepped into the heart of solitude at the "Meeting of the Waters." It is the meeting place of the Gearhameen River, Upper Lake, and Muckross Lake. It was a brutal, overcast, rainy day with knock you off-your-feet winds. As we walked passed an ancient Cedar tree, the rain and wind ceased, and we stepped into a whirlpool of silence. A ceremony was done and the coal bundle was left on July 5, 2007.
- * Ireland, Glenbeigh - On a counter clockwise drive around the Ring of Kerry the first stop was at the Bog Cutters Village Museum - the only one of its kind in Ireland. The Bog Village gives the flavor of the age. You can see, smell, and feel how the people lived and worked. A coal bundle was placed in the only peat burning fire in the village.
- * Kentucky, Marion - Coal bundles were shared at the 13th Annual Wisdom of the Elders Conference, from September 28-30, 2007. It was located at the Mantle Rock Native Education and Cultural Center. The center is the result of a vision and run by Cherokee Elders Momfeather and Dean Ericson.
- * New Mexico, Jemez Pueblo - Coal bundles were given to Flo and Sal Yepa at their home on March 25, 2006. Flo and Sal are traditional potters and people travel from all over to visit. They were called to New York a few days after the attack on the World Trade Center on 9-11-2001 and asked to do a ceremony in the hole where the buildings stood.
- * New Mexico, Santa Fe - On March 28, 2006. Fire coal bundles were carried to the Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA), and given to Ann Filemyr the Dean of the Center for Arts and cultural Studies.
- * Massachusetts, Martha's Vineyard - On July 27, 2006 the coal bundles were used in a quiet ceremony at the waters edge. It was to send loving energy to all the water creatures and to remind them that some people still remember the contract made long ago between the humans and the creatures of the sea,
- * New York, Accord - A coal bundle was placed in a Summer Solstice Fire on June 21, 2007 by Rob Norris. As he began to read the Journey of the Sacred Fire it started to rain. The moment he placed the coal bundle into the Fire it stopped raining. Norris said, "It was a nice blessing from the weather beings."

* New York, *Gonondagan State Historic Site* - A coal bundle was given to Ronnie Reiter, the Seneca cultural guide. The Seneca people refer to *Gonondagan* as the "Town of Peace." They believe that the *Jikonsaseh*, the "Mother of the Nations" is buried here. *Jikonsaseh* was the catalyst that helped the Peacemaker develop the *Great Law of Peace* as the Constitution of the *Haudenosaunee*. *Melinda Perrin* had the vision call the people and a small group of people made the pilgrimage to the site on August 18, 2007.

* Scotland - In 2006 *Fay Stone* left coal bundles in *Edinburgh*, the northern Highlands, and the *Caledonia Canal*.

* Scotland, *Cairngorm Mountain* - The living mountain is the "Heart of the National Park." The sub-arctic environment is alive with rare plants and creatures. 25% of all the threatened species in the UK live here in the park. A *Fire Coal* bundle was left at the top of the mountain near the visitor's center on July 16, 2007. The mountain was completely fogged in with visibility at perhaps 100'. Within five minutes after the coals bundle was placed the fog cleared and the entire valley for miles was visible.

* Scotland, *Glasgow* - A coal bundle was given to *Charlotte Ratcliffe* the environmental manager for the *Glasgow International Airport* on July 20, 2007. Her job covers water quality, climate change, air quality, waste management, biodiversity, and environmental compliance. The airport was *Fire bombed* by terrorists two weeks before she accepted the *Fire Coals*.

* Scotland, *Isle of Skye* - A coal bundle is given to *John Pear* at the *Aros Environmental Center*, on July 17, 2007. John is an environmentalist and wild life photographer. He is the "Keeper of the Eagles." John has been working for the last 25 years to restore Scotland's *White Tail Sea Eagle*. The sea eagle has a 9' wing span, dives at 60 mph, and can grab a 5 lb. salmon in it's talons out of the water.

* Scotland, *Isle of Skye* - A coal bundle was left at the *Fairy Glenn* on the Northwest side of the *Isle*, on July 16, 2007. The *Fairy Glenn* is a magical and mystical place on *Skye* respected by the local people. The ravens are ever present and the guardians who watch over who ever comes into the glen.

* Scotland, *Oban* - A coal bundle was left at the *Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary*, on July 15, 2007. "This center is the "working heart" to save the water creatures and the environment in all of Scotland. The bay connected to the centre is the last stronghold of the sea otter in Scotland" Opened in 1979 by *John Mace*...it was born from an idea in his mind and brought to reality by his family.

* Scotland, *Scarba* - In September, 2007, a coal bundle was dropped in the center of the *Corryvreckan Whirlpool* off *Jura Island* near *Scarba*. *Corryvreckan* is the most dangerous whirlpool in the world. It can produced 30' waves in a matter of seconds and swallows ships whole. "The sea was 'dead' calm an the day the coal bundle was dropped in the center of the whirlpool. It wanted to go straight down to the bottom of the ocean thousands of feet below."

* Turkey - In January, 2008, a coal bundle was presented by *Heather Greenwell*, of *Roots and Shoots*, *Chicago, Illinois*. to the 270th successor of the 2,000 year *Orthodox Christian Church* - *His All Holiness, Bartholomew, Archbishop of Constantinople and New Rome, Ecumenical Patriarch*. Recognized as "the Pope" he words to advance reconciliation among Catholic, and Muslims. He is supportive of peace building measures in the region.

* Washington, *Seattle (Bainbridge Island)* - On July 29, 2006 seventy-seven (77) thirty-foot(30) cedar dugout canoes made their way to "the slab" on the reservation near the *Suquamish Museum* as part of the 2006 *Intertribal Canoe Journey*. A traditional potlatch was held for all the paddlers. Coal bundles were used in a quiet ceremony at the waters edge to bless the paddlers and all the creatures of the sea. On July 31, 2001 *Marilyn Jones*, the curator of the *Suquamish Museum*, accepted the coal bundles to be used in the community and village of *Chief Seattle*.

* Washington, *Lake Quinault* - We visited the *Valley of the Rain Forest Giants* on August 2, 2006. We left coal bundles at the oldest *Sitka Spruce* and at the largest *Western Cedar*. These ancient giants are testament that the natural world lives in harmony and balance when we stay out of the picture.

* Washington, Sequim - We visited the Jamestown S'klallam Tribal Offices and Gallery on August 1, 2006. Coal bundles were offered to Wendy Humphries, who works in the gallery, and Dale Faulstich, who is the head totem pole carver. Dale has been carving totem pole for the tribe for the last twenty years. They use 800 years old cedar trees and recently discovered how to carve the totem poles in the old way. Dale said, "We just completed our first pole using the old traditions." They both accepted the coal bundles with a smile and a warm, "Thank You."

The coal bundles have been accepted and carried around the world by good-hearted people.

In the last thirteen years, the stories have grown and been shared

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