

**My Soul's Journey  
to Redefine Leadership:  
A New Phoenix Rises from the Ashes of 9/11**

**by Virginia Swain**  
September 11, 2022

**Foreword by Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury  
Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and  
Founder of the Global Movement for the Culture of Peace**

**A Spiritual Memoir with journal pages for readers to answer  
end-chapter questions as a beginning to their own spiritual memoir**

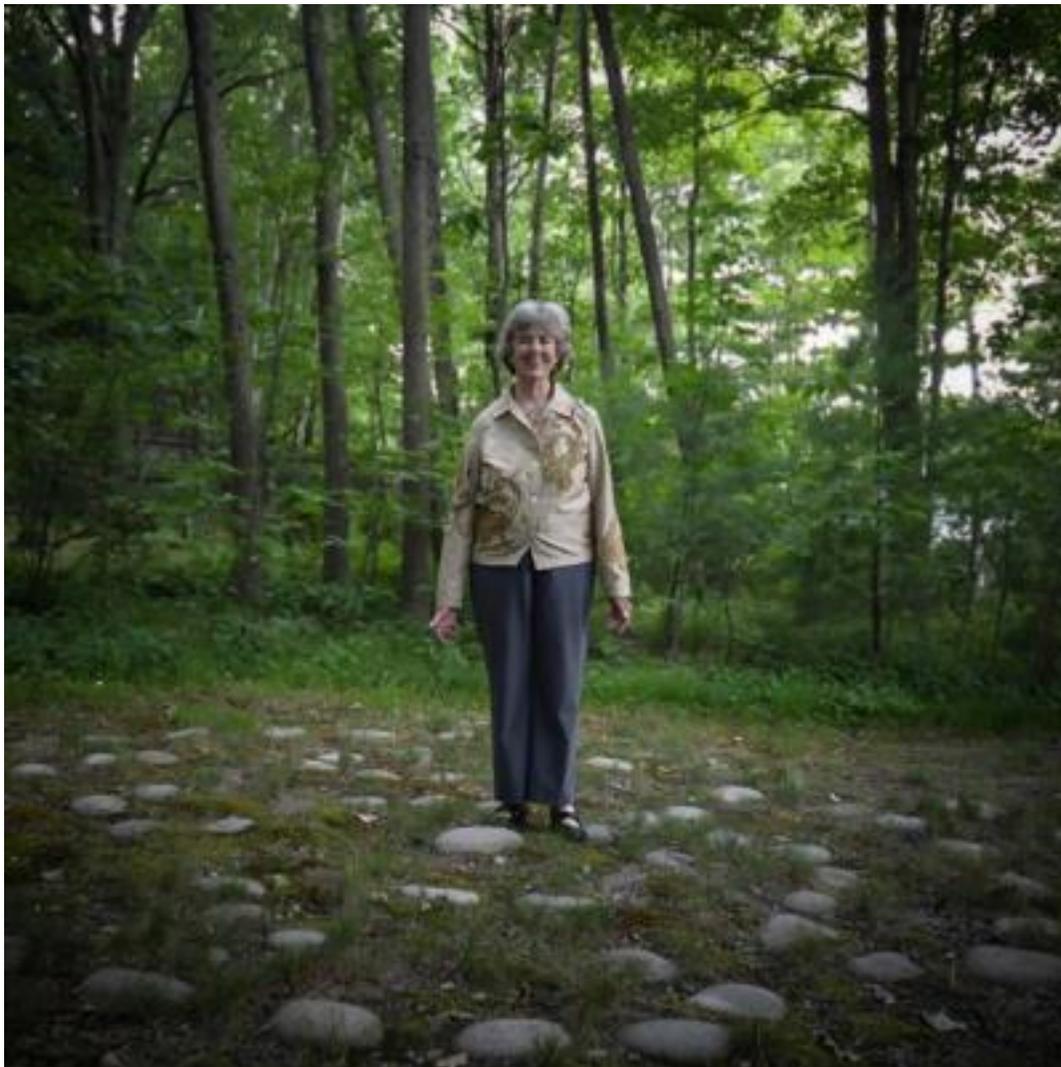
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# Dedication

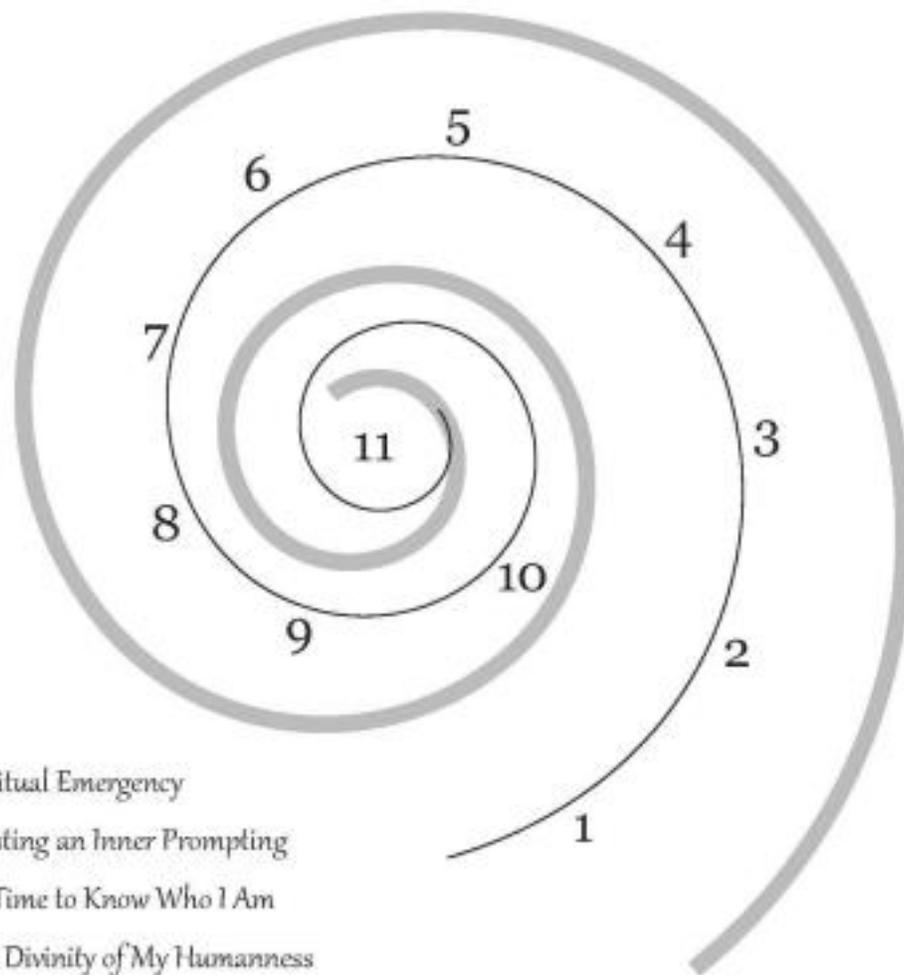
**Barbara, Bob and Linda and  
The Expressive Art Women's Group, Formed in 2003-present and**

**Reconciliation Leaders  
Anna, Brooke, Carolana, David, Deb, Gilles, Krista, Mara, Junahli, Rosario, Sam, Sarah**

## Preface



## My Soul's Journey with God to Redefine Leadership



1. Spiritual Emergency
2. Trusting an Inner Prompting
3. It's Time to Know Who I Am
4. The Divinity of My Humanness
5. My Soul and the Soul Unity of Humanity
6. Two Souls in Marriage
7. Finding My Soul's Vocation
8. My Soul and the United Nations
9. My Soul's Journey to Redefine Leadership: United Nations Reform
10. My Soul's Journey to Redefine Leadership: Restoring Faith in America
11. My Soul's Journey to Redefine Leadership: A Phoenix Rises from the Ashes of 9/11

*Dear Reader,*

*Here are the questions posed at the end of each chapter for your own journal.*

## **Introduction**

*Where would you begin to reflect on the state of your soul if you were beginning your own spiritual memoir?*

## **Chapter 1 Spiritual Emergency 1979-80**

*Have you had a spiritual emergency which broke your soul open? How did you handle it?*

*Have you ever had a sense of Love intervening in your life--either through a spiritual experience or a human presence in comfort? Have you then accepted its invitation, as I did, to a deeper experience of life?*

## **Chapter 2 Trusting an Inner Prompting 1986-88**

*Can you let go of what is not working? Are you able to live your life not needing to know the answers to your questions, considering your soul development as the answer?*

## **Chapter 3 It's Time to Know Who I Am 1986-88**

*Do you know what your soul needs to become your true self?*

*Give an example of how you discovered that what you reacted against most in someone you love was really inside yourself.*

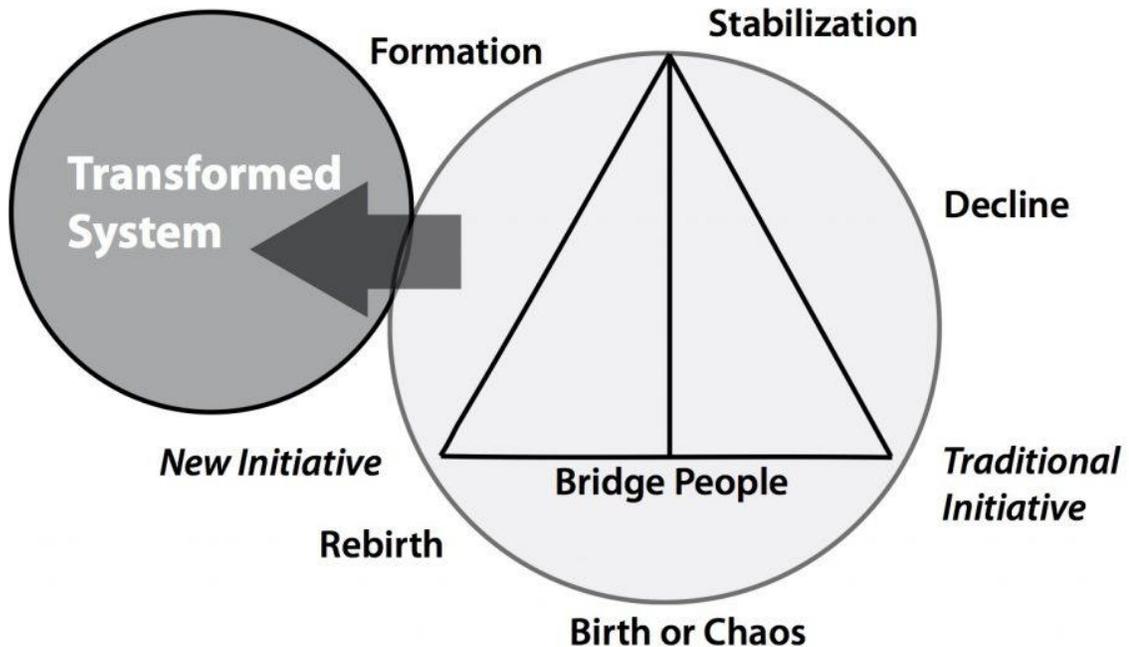
## **Chapter 4 The Divinity of My Humanness 1988-90**

*Give an example of how you discovered that facing your unconscious was a way to your soul, your true self.*

## **Chapter 5 My Soul and the Soul Unity of Humanity 1991-93**

*Have you ever made a prayerful attempt to find your center of stillness?*

## The Celebration Model Creates a Transformed System Using Parallel Development



### **Chapter 6 Two Souls in Marriage 1993-present**

*How do you bring peace into your marriage and all your relationships?*

*If you are single, how can you bring peace to all your relationships?*

### **Chapter 7 Finding My Soul's Vocation 1994-present**

*Do you know your soul's purpose?*

### **Chapter 8 My Soul and the United Nations 1991-present**

*What do you hope for in your country? Your world?*

*What can you do to realize your hopes?*

### **Chapter 9 My Soul's Journey to Redefine Leadership 1991-present**

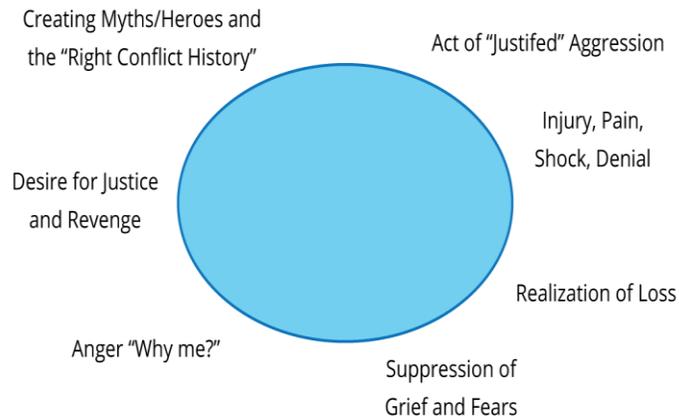
*Do you know the importance of your soul journey?*



**The Sacred Container for a  
Global Mediation and Reconciliation Service**  
<https://global-leader.org/sacred-container/>

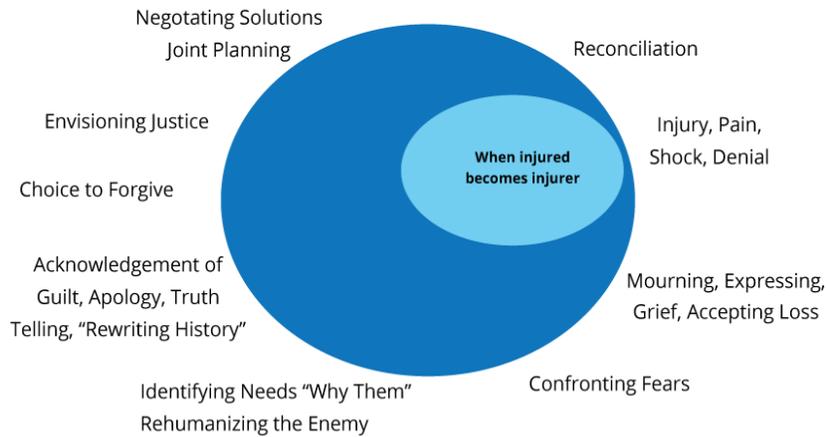
**1. The Cycle of Violence**

**When injured becomes injurer**



**2. Healing the cycle of violence with a Sacred Container**

**The Sacred Container offers a balm for  
the effects of the cycle of violence**



**Chapter 10 My Soul's Journey to Redefine Leadership 2017-present**  
**Restoring Faith in America**

*The Hopi Prophecy with Hopi Elder Thomas Banyanca*

<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/737681144>

*What can you envision from the rubble of Ground Zero?*

*Are you willing to offer your soul image to the Phoenix?*

**Chapter 11 Epilogue**

*Will you join me, dear reader, to awaken the American soul by awakening your soul first?*

*Will you come to America's Soul Community and join the spiritual renaissance of the Peacebuilding Process of Reconciliation to Develop Political Will to empower "We the Peoples"?*

*Will you join with me and the Phoenix, dear reader, on a soul journey to redefine your life and leadership so that faith in America can be restored?*



## Appendix I

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

I have carried my calling in the United Nations for twenty-five years as the Celebration model evolved into the Peacebuilding Process of Reconciliation to Develop Political Will (Peacebuilding Process) that could be used 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 our 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 4<sup>th</sup> of July Weekend with World Peace Prayer Society, 1996. **Political Action:** July 4<sup>th</sup> peace ceremony instead of celebrating war.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights 50<sup>th</sup> 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 Ethnocide 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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**

<http://www.socialweb.net/Events/searchres.lasso?title=United+%20Nations&datebeg%20in=04%2F13%2F2004&dateend=08%2F11%2F2013%20&placecategory=&place=&userid%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/>

For more:

*Global Mediation and Reconciliation Service*

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

[http://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl\\_gmrservices.html](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](http://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl_gmrservices.html)

*Sacred Container*

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

## Appendix II

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 21<sup>st</sup> Century, *Abolishing War*, November 1998 “A Vision of 21<sup>st</sup>

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/SwainSayeedReconciliationasPolicyNY06meeting.pdf>

“A Leadership and Practice to Reconcile Challenges in a Post-September 11<sup>th</sup> 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/SwainSayeedLeadershipChallengesNY06meeting.pdf>

“Turning to the Light of God Within,” published in the *Daily Word*, December 2006 [https://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl\\_DailyWord.html](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](https://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl_AsIseeit.html)

### **Sample 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 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Awards filmed on <https://www.wccatv.com/video/imagine-worcester/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-discusses/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* (WWOHP), 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\\_AsIseeit.html](https://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl_AsIseeit.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/>

“Dedicated Visionaries Keep Faith in World Governance,” by Albert Southwick, *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, March 19, 2006

[https://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl\\_DedicatedVisionaries.html](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](https://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl_localexpert.html)

“Partners in Peace,” Salve Regina University, September 2002.

[https://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl\\_partnersinpeace.html](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+under-%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://virginiawain.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](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 2007-2013

<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/0BxWxKwdQdfPudjBGWDJsSkp4NjQ/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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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>

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/>

## About the Author



Virginia Swain is a social entrepreneur, spiritual guide, leadership trainer, facilitator, mediator and master coach. She is certified in the Leadership Agility approach to coaching. Her latest blog and website can be found at [VirginiaSwain.com](http://VirginiaSwain.com). Virginia founded the Spiritual Renaissance to Heal America's Soul and hosts America's Soul Community <https://virginiaswain.com/upcoming-events/>. Her television show, "Imagine Worcester and the World," since 2007, highlights peacebuilders' human goodness and service. <https://www.wccatv.com/video/imagine-worcester>. She is a member of the Academy for Leaders.

As founder and director of the Institute for Global Leadership since 2001, Virginia provides training and coaching for leaders and teams in a post-September 11<sup>th</sup> world [www.global-leader.org](http://www.global-leader.org). Until 2017 when it was dissolved, Virginia was the co-founder, with Joseph Baratta, Ph.D., of the Center for Global Community and World Law <https://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/>, a non-governmental organization in consultative status at the United Nations.

Virginia draws from a background of senior management in human resources,

marketing and public relations in corporate and nonprofit organizations as well as 25 years of work experience at the United Nations in New York and on five continents.

She has been an adjunct faculty member at Clark University, Baypath College, Quinsigamond Community College, Lesley University and Salve Regina University, where she has taught career development, leadership, cross-cultural conflict transformation, change management and managing in a global economy, and developed a customized leadership curriculum, Reconciliation Leadership, implemented in the United Nations to redefine leadership over 25 years.

Virginia has a master's degree from Lesley University in Community Building in Organizations and has advanced certifications in Life Review and Goal Setting for Wisdom Figures as well as Ethnic Identity Consultation, Skills for the Religious Peacebuilder, Consulting in Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation from The Summer Peacebuilding Institute at Eastern Mennonite University. She also has certificates in professional holistic counseling, mediation, Reiki advanced energy healing, Myers Briggs Team Building, and parent effectiveness training. Virginia also has advanced training in spiritual direction and prepares couples for marriage as an interfaith marriage officiant. Virginia spent two years teaching in the United States Peace Corps in Liberia, West Africa.

The implementations of Reconciliation Leadership, Global Mediation and Reconciliation Service, the Peacebuilding Process of Reconciliation to Develop Political Will and the Sacred Container can be found at <https://global-leader.org/sacred-container/> and [https://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl\\_gmrservices.html](https://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org/wl_gmrservices.html).

For the Phoenix,

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[www.global-leader.org](http://www.global-leader.org)

[www.virginiaswain.com](http://www.virginiaswain.com)

[www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org](http://www.centerglobalcommunitylaw.org)

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/therapists/career-and-life-direction-coach-worcester-ma/126556>

## Endorsements

*“Virginia’s life journey reflects the pressing need for all of us to reexamine our deeply held assumptions about the meaning of effective leadership, the role of peacemakers in violent and nonviolent conflict zones, and the meaning of spirituality and its link to building peace individually and collectively. Her life story can inspire us in how to overcome our struggle to build and sustain difficult relationships, especially within the context of international and intergovernmental organizations who tend to resist transformative change. Virginia’s message of practicing love and compassion is crucial to effectively meet the challenges we face.”*

**--Dr. Mohammed Abu-Nimer, Professor of Peace and Conflict Resolution, American University, Washington DC**

*“I can’t thank you enough for My Soul’s Journey to Redefine Leadership: A New Phoenix Rises from the Ashes of 9/11 and the work you have done and continue to do in the service of peace, leadership and the human family. I came upon this verse for you from Psalm 40:7-10. ‘Then I said, Here I am, I have come. It is written about me in the scroll. I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is written within my heart. I proclaim righteousness in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, as you know, O Lord. I do not hide your righteousness in my heart. I speak of your faithfulness and salvation. I do not conceal your love and your truth from the great assembly.’ Your light shines so brightly, Virginia, and you have helped feed many other people’s flames as well. May the blessings keep showering down upon your soul and the world.”*

**--Brooke Bishara Belcher, Reconciliation Leader and Former Teacher, Bancroft School**

*“Virginia Swain has given us an inspiring spiritual autobiography that interweaves a journey of personal healing with a divinely-inspired engagement in healing humanity’s collective wounds through Reconciliation Leadership and the Peacebuilding Process of Reconciliation.”*

**--Russell Boulding, author of *Preparing Ourselves for the Great Shift* (2008) and editor of *Elise Boulding A Pioneer in Peace Research, Peacemaking, Feminism, Future Studies and the Family* (2008), Indianapolis, Indiana**

*“Virginia Swain’s newest book is a gift. She shares her life journey – with the difficulties and resources she encountered – from emotional/spiritual crisis, through relationship issues, vocational and spiritual journeying, to exploring how we can be part of healing our country*

*and our world. It's a journey into reconciliation, forgiveness and new possibilities, shared in such a way we readers can identify with her and so find something of ourselves we've overlooked. This is a powerfully honest and yet very gentle book, a blessing with many insights and how-to practices that touched this reader's soul and may well touch yours too."*

**--Dr. Michael Britton, Counseling Psychologist, Board of Trustees,  
Human Dignity and Humiliation Studies.**

*"This spiritual memoir by Virginia Swain is a gift to the reader. It is beautifully written. The candor she shares of her personal journey is filled with insights that support each of us in exploring our own unique paths. At the conclusion of each chapter is a question that reflects what she has written but more importantly, draws the reader to deeper reflection. It is a book to read, enjoy, and reread with many useful resources listed at the conclusion."*

**--Jane Cutting, Interfaith Activist, Charlton, MA**

*"Virginia Swain is more than an amazing author and teacher. She is a world leader, a peacemaker whose words can activate the same visions and qualities within others' hearts. Just as she rose like a Phoenix, her story can help us all do the same."*

**--Cyndi Dale, author of over 20 books, including *The Subtle Body* series,  
Minneapolis, Minnesota**

*"When I finished reading the manuscript, I had the sense that I'd just been given *The Answer*. Not just another first-person experience of the tragedy that was 9/11. But an intimate look into a life that is lived very intentionally under the auspices of God. The author's awareness of Jesus in her everyday living, the time she devotes to going away into the wilderness, the silence she cultivates so that she can hear God speaking are extraordinary to the minds of ordinary people. Most moving is that she knows she will hear and be heard, and she responds 'Yes!' with her whole being every time. Swain knows what the world needs now -- and invites the reader to say 'Yes!' to the invitation to join her in deep listening with open hearts."*

**--Wendy Driscoll, M.Div., Westborough, MA**

*"Virginia Swain is extraordinary. I have known her for thirty years. She has been relentless in her commitment to transform life on this planet. Her dedication to empowering and training international leaders is unparalleled, in my experience. She has reinvented herself time and again as she has discerned her limits and then has endeavored to develop her own leadership, with transparency and without apology. She is consistently able to create partnerships with movers and shakers wherever she happens to be."*

**--The Rev. Eileen Epperson, Salisbury, CT**

*“In **My Soul’s Journey to Redefine Leadership, A New Phoenix Rises from the Ashes of 9/11**, Virginia has given us a glimpse into her inner life – her soul’s regeneration (to use a Swedenborgian term) and it is exciting, awe-inspiring and deeply, personally relevant since this is the journey we are all called to make if we would become our best selves. Imagine the possibilities for our nation and the world as more and more human beings are called to develop their spiritual selves and humbly listen to their inner Voice. A life changing, soul affirming transformation took “place in Virginia’s life – taking her from the brink of despair, disillusionment and thoughts of suicide – to creative and meaningful work with the United Nations, Imagine Worcester, Reconciliation Leadership counseling, and even finding her ‘beloved’. These miraculous changes are available to all of us. Read the book, answer the questions at the end of the chapters, and be still. Listen for your unique possibilities. What beautiful Phoenix rises from the ashes of your old life?”*

**--Janet Farrell, Wife, Caregiver, Volunteer, Swedenborgian, Sturbridge, Massachusetts**

*“Reading the book in virtually one sitting, I see **My Soul’s Journey to Redefine Leadership** as an adventure story. It’s like a Jason Bourne thriller, but without the violence. It’s a blazing, amazing, instructive and inspiring story and you open up aspiring spiritual beings to a new world view.”*

**--Robert Kauffman, Kauffman Design, Atlanta, Georgia**

*“After a life of as a caregiver and a 42-year career in nursing, I was facing retirement with trepidation. My very dear friend, a physician with whom I have worked closely for years, felt that it would be good to introduce me to the work of Virginia Swain. I started the next step in my life journey by reading Virginia’s book **My Soul’s Journey to Redefine Leadership: A New Phoenix Rises from the Ashes of 9/11**. Her chrysalis of tragedy and pain, her ability to metamorphize through her faith and then spread her wings and words to nourish the world through the pursuit of world peace and love remind me that we are all responsible to make a difference for the better. Virginia spoke of her inner voice and its guiding influence, leading me to recognize my own voice and the confidence to listen and believe. Her insight into dealing with conflict and anger was an ‘aha’ moment for me. You are never too old to learn, to reach out and make your own contribution to a world of peace through love. She continues to spread her wings to attract others to follow her vision, and reaffirms my own commitment to humanity. She helped me realize I will never need to retire from that, and we can all be the Phoenix.”*

**--Maryann Ouillette, L.P.N. and Reiki practitioner**

*“Virginia’s courage to share her life journey in defining spiritual leadership will serve to inspire countless others who seek to bring these qualities into their own and others’ lives.”* **--Gioia Persuitte, Shrewsbury, MA**

*‘I met Virginia soon after 9/11 as I was looking for help to articulate and live out my heart’s calling. As an American Muslim woman, I experienced myself as a container of the conflict in the world around me. America and Islam were being defined as being at odds,*

*and yet, both make me who I am. I knew that I needed to bring these dimensions of myself into harmony, and that I wanted to be a peacebuilder. I began one-on-one coaching with Virginia, and then entered her certificate program in Reconciliation Leadership. Since then, Virginia has been a lifeline, an important mentor and guide. Beauty is in the eyes of the beholder, and to me, among her most beautiful qualities is her dedication to prayer. This commitment to her own spirituality and connection to God is captured in this book, in which she lives from the inside out, spirit brought into practice in the world, and inspires me to do the same. Reconciliation Leadership has reaffirmed for me the importance of being an integrated human being and the strength and necessity of this integration for the practice of leadership.'*

**--Dr. Sarah Sayeed, Reconciliation Leader and Public Servant, New York, New York**

*"I admire your courage and willingness to choose a path of healing."*

**--Bernie Siegel, MD, Founder, Exceptional Cancer Patients and Author,  
Love, Medicine and Miracles and Prescriptions for Living, Woodbridge, CT**

*"A chronicle of a soul-searching, spirit-guided life showing how a deep love of humanity is beautifully expressed through a life of service based on compassion."*

**--Iris Spellings, Representative to the United Nations, Peace Through Unity,  
Brooklyn, New York**

*"Make no mistake: although Virginia recounts her burgeoning self-awareness through her faith, personal experiences, and fascinating career path, this book is not about her. It's actually about you. It's clear from the first pages that her real, albeit unattainable, wish in this world is to get to know each and every one of us. She warmly invites us to reflect on our own lives and paths as we join her in hers, as if we've reunited with an old friend for a soothing heart-to-heart."*

**--Mary Waggoner-Moritz, French to English translator and World Café  
host, Grandfontaine, France**

*"Virginia brings a passion for the United Nations and the multilateral peace process that is contagious and engrossing. The exposure to diplomatic officials and NGO professionals offers an unbelievable degree of access into the functioning of the UN. It is emotionally edifying and spiritually uplifting power-networking, and you'll never look at the UN the same way again. Great work is being done there and Virginia brings you into the heart of it."*

**--The Rev. David Woessner, Rector, St. Michael's Church, Worcester, MA**

*"Phoenix describes the spiritual and emotional evolution of Virginia's conscious*

*awareness. Virginia's ability to reflect and adapt from her rich experiences molds her into a confident leader and peacemaker throughout her life journey. Her revelations throughout her journey allow the reader to self-assess and ultimately inspire the question "How can I make my mark and connect the world through harmony." We learn from Virginia that life is precious and that we have an opportunity to make a true impact on the lives of others."* --

**Juan Zhong, Psychologist, Glastonbury, CT**