

in our relationships, peace in our families," she said. "Just to let people know there's an alternative."

Natesan has gotten major players in Naperville on board. On Tuesday, Naperville Mayor George Pradel will proclaim Sept. 15 through Oct. 16 Celebration of Peace month.

The Celebration of Peace month is an extension of the United Nations' International Day of Peace on Sept. 21, Natesan said. An immigrant from India who came to this country some 30 years ago, Natesan said getting to know others different from ourselves is key to peace.

"I really do think we're all connected in a big way," she said. "(But) if we don't understand someone, where they're coming from, we kind of stay away from them. It's all about understanding."

Naperville with its diversity is a good place to start reaching out for at least one month, Natesan said.

"That way they get to know each other and realize how glorious we all are," she said.

To that end, ThinkGlobal Arts Foundation, which Natesan founded last year, will work in partnership with the city, North Central College, Naperville Unit District 203 and Indian Prairie District 204, local businesses and other organizations to bring in speakers, hold a panel discussion, present a film festival, conduct a charity drive, and sponsor art and writing



"Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures."

— John F. Kennedy



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has."

— Margaret Mead

contests for kids.

## Reaching youth

Natesan, the mother of two adult children, said it was young people who motivated her to start the Celebration of Peace. Seeing how often kids respond to insults or aggression in like manner made her want to show them another way, she said.

So this year's festival, like last year's, will include two art contests for young people with peace as a theme. The Creative Stamp Design contest invites elementary through

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## Celebration of Peace calendar of events

### Sept. 2

Mayoral proclamation at 7 p.m. at Naperville city hall, 400 S. Eagle St.

### Oct. 1

Keynote speaker Robert Thurman meets with students at 10 a.m. at Neuqua Valley High School, 2360 95th St., Naperville. Thurman speaks to the general public at 7 p.m. at North Central College's Pfeiffer Hall, 310 E. Benton Ave., Naperville.

### Oct. 2

"Contemporary Peacemakers" exhibit and reception from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at North Central

College's Meilly-Swallow Hall, 31 S. Ellsworth St., Naperville; panel discussion at 7:30 p.m. at Meilly-Swallow Hall

### Oct. 15

News conference for children's contest winners, 7 to 8 p.m. at Naperville city hall

### Oct. 16

Film festival from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at Meilly-Swallow Hall at North Central College

### Oct. 29

Martin Luther King III speaks to students at 10 a.m. at Naperville Central High School, 440 W. Aurora Ave.

• All events are free, but donations are welcome.

Info: [www.thinkglobalarts.org](http://www.thinkglobalarts.org)