

## How to reach us

All numbers are area code 630 unless indicated.

**Mailing address:** 4300

Commerce Court, Lisle, IL 60532

**Fax:** 955-0895

**General information:** 955-3500

**Home delivery:** 955-0007

**Back issues:** (847) 427-4733

**Classified:** 955-0008;

class@dailyherald.com

**Display ads:** 955-3559;

sales@dailyherald.com

**Have a complaint or a compliment?** Call customer service at (847) 427-4333.

## News tips

**Got a tip?** Need to talk with an editor or reporter?

**General newsroom**

(9 a.m. — 5 p.m.): 955-3500;

news@dailyherald.com

**News tip hotline**

(5 p.m. — 9 a.m.):

(847) 427-4440;

news@dailyherald.com

# Peace! Events include exhibits, contests

*Continued from Page 1*

high school students to create art depicting the theme "Celebration of Peace in Our Everyday Lives." The 10 winning entries will be turned into U.S. postage stamps. Stamps with the 10 winning entries from last year's event will be available for purchase at the Celebration of Peace tent at the Riverwalk Fine Art Fair Sept. 20 and 21.

Students also may enter the Peace Begins with Me 2008-09 Lions Club International Peace Poster Contest. For those who want to express their thoughts about peace in writing, this year's event has added a contest for essays and poems.

Too often the term "peacemakers" brings to mind only people like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. who are dead, Natesan said. She doesn't diminish their contributions. A few years ago, she put together a stamp exhibit on Gandhi that was

shown in Washington, D.C., and Gandhi's grandson, Rajmohan Gandhi, spoke at the event last year. This year, Natesan has persuaded Dr. Martin Luther King's son, Martin Luther King III, to speak in Naperville schools in October.

But Natesan, an artist, has put together a "Contemporary Peacemakers" exhibit for this year's event about living people who are working to make the world a better and safer place. The exhibit includes obvious choices like former President Jimmy Carter and lesser known figures such as Dean Kanen, whose inventions have included the Segway PT, ways to advance medical care and to improve lives in developing countries.

"Our children, even young adults, should see these people ... (and) know all of us can do that," Natesan said.

Natesan has chosen as the keynote speaker Robert Thurman, named by Time magazine in 1997 as one of 25 most influential people in America.

A professor at Columbia University in New York, Thurman is an expert in Tibetan Buddhism and father of actress Uma Thurman.

A film festival in October will feature "A Force Powerful," a documentary on three episodes in 20th century history when nonviolent power overcame oppression and authoritarian rule: "West Bank Story," a musical comedy set in the fast-food world of competing falafel stands on the West Bank between Israel and Jordan; and "We Speak as One," in which 12 Nobel Laureates share their vision for peace.

## All can participate

Natesan said even people who don't attend the events can participate in the celebration. She has produced "32 Days and Ways to Practice Peace," with thoughts and quotes for each day to reflect upon and suggested actions to take.

ThinkGlobal Arts also will be conducting an Arts for Peace

collection drive. Bins will be placed throughout Naperville to receive donations of new or used art materials. The art materials will be assembled in 2,400 kits and sent to 24 impoverished elementary schools in Malawi and Tanzania.

Celebration of Peace volunteer Donna Limper of Naperville said she joined in helping to plan the celebration this year after it changed her life last year.

"I was so impressed, I went to every event," she said. Limper said through last year's celebration she started to find new ways to relate to her husband and daughter. She also joined one of the Dialogue Circles of the Parent Diversity Advisory Council of Indian Prairie Unit District 204 at a time when construction of a third high school was a hot issue.

"Attending the celebration gave me new skills in terms of stop, shut your mouth and listen," she said. "I'm so much

more thoughtful in the way I express myself to other people, especially when I'm upset."

Working with Natesan also is a lesson in possibility thinking, Limper said. When Limper points out they have don't have funding to carry out some of Natesan's plans, Natesan responds "God will provide."

"Only a person with big dreams could conceive this and pull this off," Limper said. "She's opening my world, not just with her culture, but with her joy and optimism."

Natesan said she is pleased that more volunteers are joining to help with the celebration this year. She's also hearing from other communities — including Skokie, Flossmoor and Dallas — that want to put on similar events.

Natesan is more than willing to share her ideas and support.

"I'm just hoping that it will spread," she said. "Once you start on a path, things can happen."