

THE ART OF HEALING, THE ART OF PEACE

Washington, D.C., healing arts division members Witney Rose, senior medical student, and Dr. Iris Davis, who specializes in AIDS research, gave the following determination and vision at the SGI-USA's Washington, D.C., Community Center in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

What is our dream? Peace in the healing professions. From neurosurgery to massage, psychiatry to shiatsu—we see a common goal of providing the patient with the best care that we can give. We see a sharing and mutual respect not only for the patient and their goals and needs, but an environment where each of the professionals involved respects the other's traditions, capacities and skills.

This means that we will need to learn more than just our traditional skills, but also learn to create an atmosphere and a structure that allows dialogue to enhance the capacity for knowledge, differences and various practices of healing.

Peace in the healing professions could be based on helping our society to focus on wellness and take the focus off of making large profits while limiting vital therapies. Peace in our profession would help us to overcome our collective fear of death, so that we can better share and learn from the traditions and mores that celebrate and accept the cycle of life and death. Releasing our rigidity and mutual arrogance will allow us to begin to soften our lives and be less judgmental, so that every human being who comes to us can learn to maximize their health in one of the many traditions of treatment and in the paths of wellness and health. Mutual respect implies that the patient is the healer, not only an agent that we “act” upon or impose our views upon.

In the healing arts based on peace, respect would flow freely between everyone involved in the healthcare process from the most senior physician to the support staff. Hospitals would transform into true asylums, places of rest where human beings can “recharge,” heal, awaken to their inner strength, and become active participants in their own healing process.

The move toward a peaceful profession will allow us to take a fresh look at education in the healing arts, where education is a healing process, not a combative practice. The training will attract compassionate, empathetic and committed students with the ability to enrich the professions they choose. Mentorship will flourish and true educators will be cherished and rewarded for their unique ability to inspire and teach. Unity and a shared vision for a healthy and happy society filled with people fulfilling their individual destiny will be at the center of the healing arts philosophy. Healing professionals will become woven into the fabric of their communities, building bridges and eliminating barriers to healthcare. All of the healing arts will be viewed as honorable vehicles for encouraging and supporting the lives of others.