

*First Edition!*  
By Christine Loughlin, OP

Our first newsletter goes to press just a few days after the assassination of Yitshak Rabin. As people of Israel enter a time of deep mourning, I am reminded of our national grieving last October with the bombing in Oklahoma City. For us in the U. S. it was our collective turning toward the recognition of, for the first time, the enemy within. While the nation states have situated their security in naming an enemy outside of national borders, the violence that is erupting in the most familial places is hastening our acknowledgment that we are all part of the problem. To pursue the dream of peace we must face the enemy within.

Crystal Spring is one among many earthspirit centers coming to be. It is that emerging earthspirit that is awakening human consciousness to our deep-seated individual and collective violence. Slowly we sense that our separation from the natural world is the root of our pathology. Acts done in the name of a community of patriots or in the name of a community of religious fervor kill, maim and destroy. We are at a loss to know what to do. The responses of the past are no longer adequate for the present. In separating ourselves from the natural world we have lost our sense of meaning and true community, unleashing a violence so destructive upon each other and all of creation that we have placed all life in great peril.

Crystal Spring is one with the growing network of peoples and centers dotting the countryside and the urban areas, whose task is to rethink, relearn, re-imagine what it means to be human. It is in coming home to this particular place in southeastern Massachusetts that we come home to Earth. In all that is special to this space, we find our way in the "great work" of being human in the sacred community of life.

As the winter solstice approaches and the broad cloak of the night sky extends long into the dream time, how good to be one with all of you in this most critical of times. May we dream together in this dark night and feel again and for the first time, the great turn of the Earth toward the rebirth of the Sun. We are integral and necessary to this wondrous rebirth.

Blessings and Peace. ■ CL