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Dear Friends,

What an incredible time to be alive on this planet! There is stunning news, daily, and who knows what will have transpired by the time you read this.

I continue to ride a wave of enthusiasm as we plan for the follow-up to our successful conference on *Realizing a Culture of Peace*, this past November. Our upcoming Forum on April 9th, “Working Across Difference: Meeting Refugees in Crisis”, turns out to be a truly timely and prescient theme.

Many of you who have attended our events have heard me speak about the tradition of peace building that began here at Mohonk Mountain House during the series of International Arbitration Conferences, starting in 1896. They were virtually the first time representatives from many of the world’s countries gathered together to address global issues. In 1972, the Secretary General of the United Nations attended a conference on peace building at the Mountain House. We have resumed the peace building tradition, and it certainly turns out to be at a crucial juncture in time.

Our mission includes addressing the interrelationship of all life on earth. Over the decades, we’ve primarily focused on environmental issues, and our fall conference this year will continue this focus. However, at this time of upheaval in political and social realms, here in the US as well as abroad, I am both inspired and relieved to know that our Forum in April will address the churning human dimension of the interrelationship of all life on earth. If we humans cannot figure out how to get along, it’s hard to see how we’ll be able to sustainably take care of our planetary environment and its ecology.

Please, folks, find something helpful to do and act now, whether on your own or with a group. If you are not able to participate directly in some specific effort, then to the extent that you can, support groups whose work is meaningful to you, and who are working productively to address the poignant issues of the day. Know that Mohonk Consultations will be deeply grateful for your support, whether it is financial, or simply helping us manifest our mission in any way that you can.

Get in touch. We’d love to hear from you.

Brad Berg, Chair, Board of Managers