Mama Peace Posts – Grit, Grace, Gratitude

…choosing to celebrate the wonderful'ness of life at "6-7"
and focus on worthy'ness over weary'ness...
#PeaceMatters #MamaPeacePost
#BlessingsAbundant #Huzzah! #Yes!

August 1-31, 2026



Day 8 of this 365-cycle (8/1/2026)



It's National Sunflower Day!

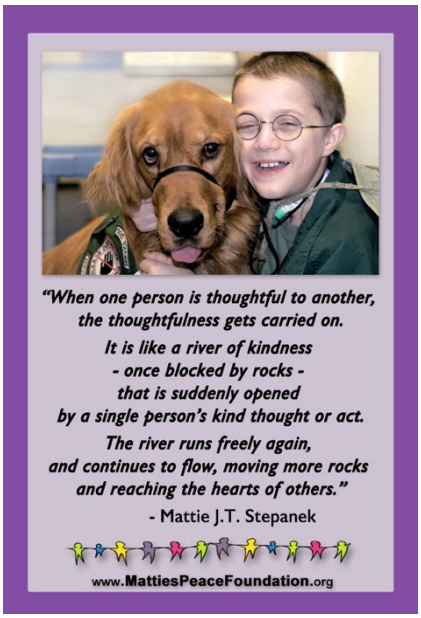
#SeekTheLight
#BeTheLight
#ShineTheLight

Day 9 of this 365-cycle (8/122026)



When friends choose to **#JustShowUp** and help with heavy lifting tasks (like setting up a new Foundation storage space with tons - literally - of books and "stuff") - the work is easier, and the camaraderie makes it so much more enjoyable! Thank you **Holly**, **Faith**, and **Alyssa** for being so cheerful and helpful!





Day 10 of this 365-cycle (8/3/2026)

It's Monday - so I thought maybe it's a great day to share a **#MattiesMessage** quote - this one on "compassion" - which moves "care and concern" to actual action.

Day 11 of this 365-cycle (8/4/2026)

And now on Tuesday - part two of the Monday **#MattiesMessage** card on compassion... **#KindnessMatters** - what act of compassionate kindness did you offer today?



Day 12 of this 365-cycle (8/5/2026)



We are nearing the end of the "dog days of summer" - that 40 day period from early July into mid August - when the local weather tends to be especially hot, humid, and sultry. The last few days have been warm and humid, but actually quite pleasant (for the DC area during this season).



Today is also "National Work Like a Dog Day" - an unofficial holiday that celebrates people with a strong work ethic and honors the hard-working history of real working dogs, such as **Mattie**'s and my service dog, Micah.

So I decided to share a few "silly, serious, sweet, and statue" photos of Micah on this day - in honor of dog days and dog work and beloved dogs in our lives.



If you want - share a photo of your pup in the comments for folks to enjoy.





Day 13 of this 365-cycle (8/6/2026)



So many lessons in one single day... a few?



Mema HAS ZERO INTEREST in petting a Madagascar hissing cockroach...

"The Google" can help decipher "the dog images" on a backpack (with perseverance!)...



Reconnecting with old friends and supporting positivity (and local business) matters OH SO MUCH.



Day 14 of this 365-cycle (8/7/2026)



I am posting something positive about the world - mine, yours, ours - every day during the year I am 67.

Why?

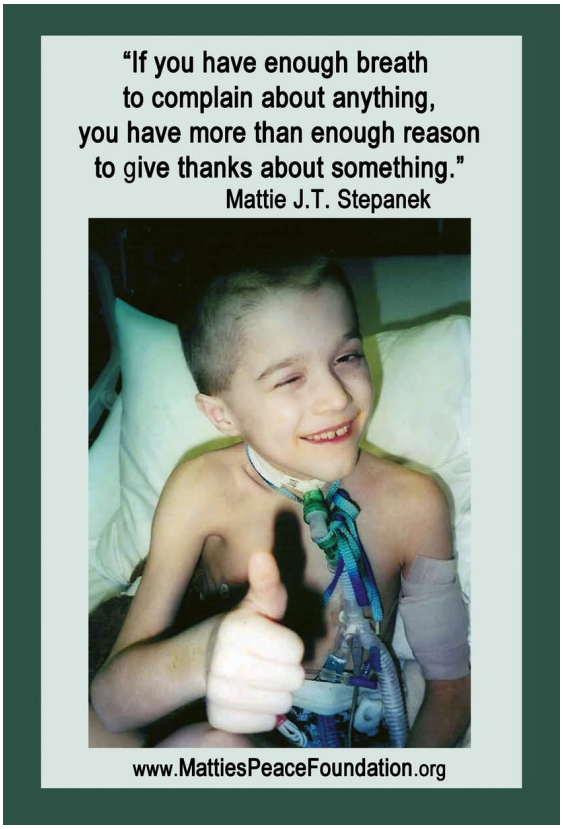
In part, to celebrate that (despite odds) this old'ing lady is still here, and still going strong, and still feeling youthful enough to play along with the (apparently now "so last year!") younger generation's "6-7" social media trend.

I hope to notice and lift little bits of this-and-that to a nifty'er level... shine light on moments or things or realities often considered "so-so" or even "nothing" - and note them as truths that can give us reason for thinking deeper or feeling connected or awe'ing inspired, or maybe even smiling, or at least feeling less "so-so" or "nothing" in chaotic or challenging times.

Some days, I will get to choose "which" ever-so-nifty bit(s) to celebrate - from an array of terrific or worthy stuff that matters across the hours...

And some days, I will need to purposefully (even prayerfully) pause - and in the midst of splatters of trivial or weary stuff, still find reason for gratitude, and for okay'ness.

Today - I offer folks still reading this post a small bag of popcorn to consider (thank you Sandy for keeping me stocked with a favorite go-to comfort snack!), and also a familiar Mattie quote (thank you **Mattie** for reminders about the importance of ever-being grounded and grateful!).



Yep! This is one of those days that unfolded with more than the usual work tasks, and with a bit of unnecessary unpleasant stuff, and with a thunder storm that interrupted evening plans... but this day also was marked with meaningful insights, and with an unexpected bag of popcorn found at the back of my (almost) empty snack drawer, and with communications with friends and folks I have loved life and laughed with across time, and with many (many) a reason to give thanks - with the gift of each breath.

Day 15 of this 365-cycle (8/8/2026)



Today is National Sneak Some Zucchini onto Your Neighbor's Porch Day.

Really.

This unofficial playful holiday is celebrated annually on August 8. Word on the street is that it began with gardeners dealing with an overwhelming surplus of summer squash.

Their solution?
Covertly drop off extra zucchini on neighbors' doorsteps - and share the bounty.

I didn't have zucchini to share today, but I did put a tray of treats out for my neighbors to enjoy.

What have other folks shared today?

(PHOTO: "a year ago today" - reconnecting with dear folks and friends at the Town Square concert – shared cause I don't have a zucchini photo, and this memory made me smile today 😘).

Day 16 of this 365-cycle (8/9/2026)



What might we call a space where people:

- care for one another?
- share talents and purpose in collaboration rather than competition?
- celebrate differences not as dividers but as treasures?
- choose to disagree without attacking or hurting others?
- and humbly serve and encourage each other and work together for the good of each and the good of all?

That was the discussion and activity focus of today's Intergenerational Vacation Bible School program at **Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church** - as we explored what it means to cultivate a "beloved community" where all people are valued and belong.

As individuals, and as small groups, and then as a whole group - we each and all contributed to the creation of an artistic coral reef - an ecosystem in which each part of the reef matters, and each contributes to the well-being of the whole.



Imagine if we - as amazing humans - existed in harmony like a coral reef... wow! what a nifty space of belonging, and beloved community, that would be.

















Day 17 of this 365-cycle (8/10/2026)



For decades (and decades), each time I would visit the beach, I would offer a gift to the sea...

...a gift of gratitude and respect for all the gifts that this "thin space" offered me - year after year - as I celebrated the sand and the surf and the glorious sunrises (and "un-rises") and sunsets (and "un-sets") and the spiritual gifts of feeling that truth of "heaven-touching-onto-earth" and "earth-touching-into-heaven"... and yes, for the ever-growing collection of shells (and shells and shells)(and shells) that now grace the "beach bathroom" in the Mama Peace Pad...

...each year (for decades), on my reconnection with the beach - I would run (and then one year only walk)(and then one year simply roll) out on the beach, and I would toss a shell into the ocean... just a bit of treasure from some previous beach trip, but a meaningful gratitude expression - rooted in the spiritual connection that this space is for me... and I would whisper a prayer...



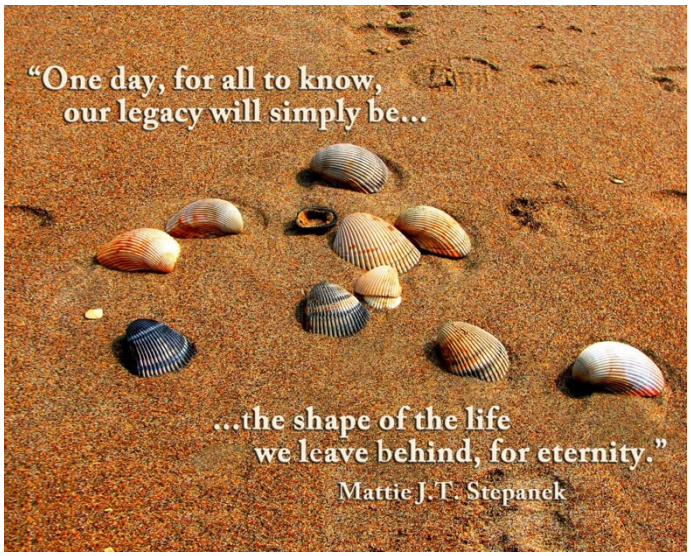
I called this tradition "the first shell" - shared as a token of gratitude and hope, and peace...

...then throughout whatever time I had in this sacred space, I would gather more and more lovely shells - symbolic reminders of essence of things (beings) past that still mattered...

...and then, on the final day of my visit to the beach, I would pick up what I called "the last shell" - and treasure it for the year until I could offer it as "the first shell" the following year...

...and then one year (2014) - for a variety of reasons, it became my last year of being able to visit the beach, and enjoying this thin space and my tradition of giving and receiving and giving and receiving "gifts of the sea"...







Day 18 of this 365-cycle (8/11/2026)



A beach themed surprise "after wedding / before honeymoon" celebration for **Tara** - **Main Street Connect** Executive Director extraordinaire - made today's "Food for Thought" session super special...

Then **Alyssa**'s helpful hands (and halo head!) made putting together more shelves for the storage room oh-so-much easier (and enjoyable!)....

...another week is already hitting the "mid" point, and working with purpose and community made the hours hardly noticeable!







Day 19 of this 365-cycle (8/12/2026)



This evening was the first deep dive Mama Peace Chat session with the new 2026 Global Teen Leaders who will soon be heading to London for the WAFF Just Peace Summit. I have been facilitating these global sessions since the first Summit back in 2008 - and it is a privilege to work with so many amazing folks. I love serving as a global welcome mat known as Mama Peace.

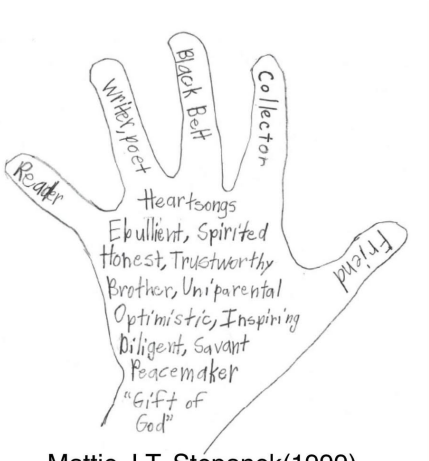
Our session was about "I am..." statements and purpose, and about how we want to be known - and one day remembered. We chatted about individual purpose (which **Mattie** called Heartsongs) and collective purpose (which he visualized as a mosaic of humanity).

While I will always wish it were Mattie himself sharing these tips and tools for peace and purpose and play, I am grateful to my son for gifting us with so much wisdom, and for trusting me to continue his mission and fold his essence into my purpose.

Day 20 of this 365-cycle (8/13/2026)

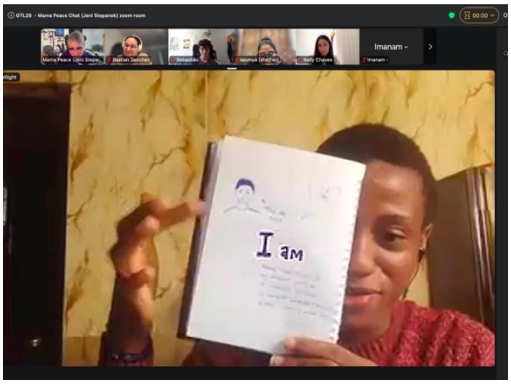


Today I connected with more and more of the 2026 Global Teen Leaders in more and more global zoom sessions. Each of these teens has been selected to participate in the upcoming. Just Peace Summit because something mattered to them - perhaps exciting, perhaps painful, perhaps confusing - but it mattered so much that it moved them to lead a project that now somehow tends to basic human needs, which in turn, cultivates peace.



Mattie J.T. Stepanek(1999)
In Journey Through Heartsongs
Hyperion, 2002

The basic message of "personal and collective purpose" (Heartsongs and mosaics) that I offer in these introductory sessions is the same for each group - but the words and the responses and the interactions are always amazingly unique, rooted in the diverse "I am..." expressions of so many nifty folks.



Thank you **Mattie** for the **#Pathways2Peace** inspiration. And thank you Tariq for allowing me to share a bit of what matters to you and about you and from you in my social media post today.



I am very much looking forward to working with this cohort across the coming year (and yes - also to continuing connections with GTLs from cohorts dating back to 2008!). **#PeaceIsPossible #WeAreFamily**.

Day 21 of this 365-cycle (8/14/2026)



When an **Upcounty Community Resources, Inc.** team happy hour leads into the Friday night concert on the Rockville town **Square** - well, how can I not have mega reasons to smile as I celebrate life with community!



And wow - I thoroughly enjoyed the band leading folks in a belated "happy birthday" tribute! It rained the last couple of Friday nights so this was the first time we gathered since my actual birthday... what a nifty way to keep the good feeling going!

Note re the final photo in this post: we were a table of ten - so we built of tower with the remnants of our collective toast














PEACE DAY(S)
Mattie J.T. Stepanek Foundation
2020
2021
www.MattieOnline.com
#JustShowUp #WithPurpose
#ShareHeartsongs





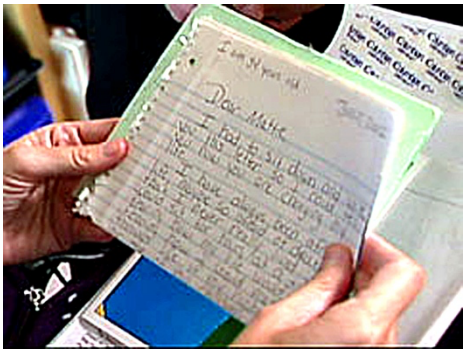



okay... so this birthday card isn't one of a kind...

Day 22 of this 365-cycle (8/15/2026)



Today - as I searched for something totally unrelated, this 17-year-old news interview popped up... and it was worth the re-visit... hope my Facebook folks appreciate it as I did...
Mattie Matters...



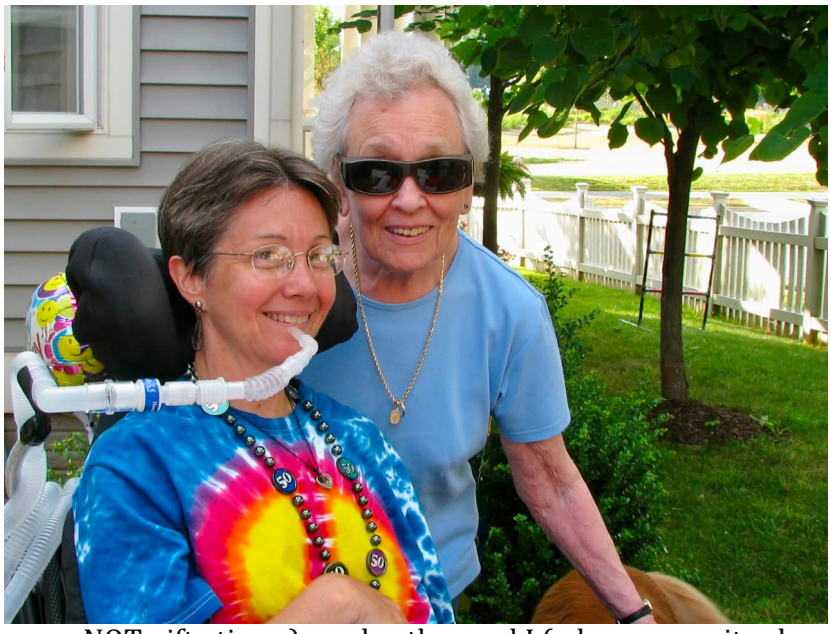
https://www.pbs.org/.../november-13-2009-jeni.../4950/

Day 23 of this 365-cycle (8/16/2026)



When folks who farm and garden chop and share their bounty with this veggie lover (and even toss in some popcorn as a bonus treat) - I say wow! thank you! and offer a prayer of gratitude.

Day 24 of this 365-cycle (8/17/2026)



August 17 is one of those "special to me" days that won't be marked on other folks' calendars. It is the day I was baptized, back in 1959, when I was only a few weeks old.

I remember nothing of the day, of course. But the date brings to memory my brother Walter - my Irish twin - who was also baptized on August 17 - the year before me when he was a few weeks old. And it brings to mind and heart my Godmother - "Aunt Mary Lou" (or "AML" as Mattie began calling her).

Both of these folks mean a lot to me. Sadly, due to how my childhood and teen years unfolded (abbreviated summary: I grew up in a very dysfunctional household and they were NOT nifty times), my brother and I (who were quite close as children) grew apart as teens and adults, and only reconnected in the final year or so of his life (he died of cancer in 2017).

And I didn't have the privilege of getting to know my AML until the final few years of Mattie's life. She, too, has passed away, but she was amazing - spiritual and wise and kind and caring - and I have even wondered how different my life might have unfolded had she been "my mother" rather than my godmother.



But I can't go back. I can't rewrite history. And I can't (actually, I won't) get stuck in "woulda coulda shoulda" thought circles or the abyss of regret - which only empties the spirit.



Instead, I choose to pause with purpose today, and spend a little time thinking on what I love about each of them, and what it is that I miss. And then I will offer a bit of that essence to someone else - which somehow keeps them present in this world, in a special way on this "special to me day."

Much love to my brother, and to my AML.

Day 25 of this 365-cycle (8/18/2026)



Thinking of an amazing woman today - who was my friend, and who exemplified grit, grace, and gratitude - Rosalynn Carter - on what would be her 99th birthday. Much love to her family and friends.



Day 26 of this 365-cycle (8/19/2026)



For too many different reasons, I haven't been to a county fair since 1991... but yesterday - that changed!

And in so many ways - even in our ever-changing world - 35 years later I can honestly say that the county fair is simply still the ever-familiar (and fun!) "county fair" ...

... animal barns, rides, ice cream and funnel cake and corn dogs and so (so so) much carnival-style delicious delights, laughter and connecting with friends, exhibits and craft displays, games (and yep! I won a stuffed shark! who woulda thunk I could still toss a dart and burst a balloon!)...

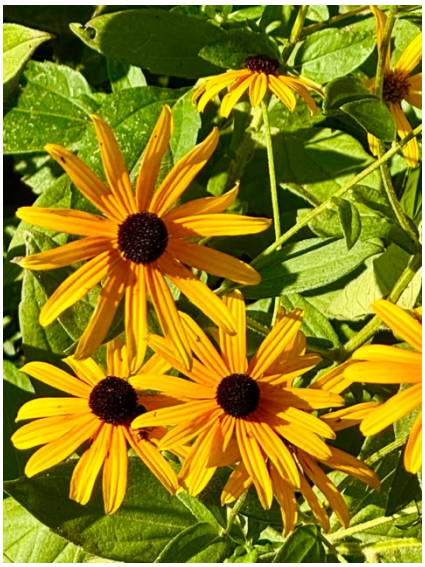


... the county fair is like "comfort food" for the spirit - familiar (even across decades), fun and friendly, a feast of agricultural facts for the mind, and fellowship for community.

And bonus - I went on **#MoCoFair** "Seniors Day" so the admission was free (& "free" is one of my favorite numbers).


















Itsy Bitsy


BUSY B BALLOONS
WINS CHOICE
WIN CHOIC


PEACE OUT


MARYLAND
BASKETBALL




CREAM



Day 27 of this 365-cycle (8/20/2026)



Thinking of **Mattie**'s and my dear friend, Jerry Lewis, on the anniversary of his passing.

JL was Mattie's role model for advocacy work, and I am ever-grateful for his decades upon decades of dedication to the **Muscular Dystrophy Association**.

Why did JL pour his heart into this work? Not because he had a family member or friend afflicted by one the 43 neuromuscular diseases that this organization impacts with research and programs and support, but simply because he chose to use the privilege of his celebrity status to raise awareness and funds that would translate to hope and treatments towards cures for the countless children and families and adults and providers impacted by these devastating conditions.

#Wow! And **#thankyou**! You mattered then. You matter now. You will always matter. Hope you and Mattie are sharing a heavenly hug. **#Huzzah**

Day 28 of this 365-cycle (8/21/2026)



She may have a frail body and mind shifted by dementia - but yesterday, Mema became the newest 92 (!) year old on the block, and she is still rocking life!





Day 29 of this 365-cycle (8/22/2026)



Working hard on organizing materials for **Mattie**'s Peace Foundation

- so we can host more events and activities,
- so we can re-open our Peace Shop, and
- so we can get moving on our interactive peace center and virtual museum project...



...couldn't have gotten as far along as we are without JJ and **Robin** - fire fighter friends and Foundation members who have made two trips from the Toronto area to Maryland to give muscle to the work (and also exchange practical jokes and pranks with **Jenn Lynn** - at "Chez Kerwin" - where the guys stay during these visits)...

...and yep! we did lose an hour or so of work time when the guys (somehow) locked the key inside the storage room (!) - but it gave us a bit of chat time, so all was well...

...after wrapping up the effort this visit, we had a quick toast with an excellent Canadian Whisky they brought down last visit...

...as they headed back north, I headed to **The Square** in Downtown Rockville for the Friday concert...

...then back to the Mama Peace Pad where I counted oh-so-many blessings - with gratitude...













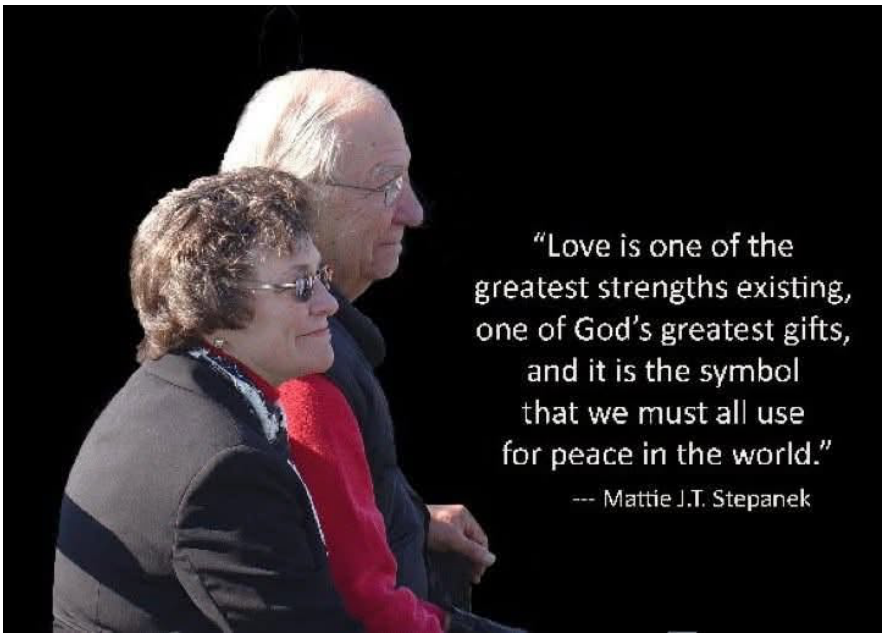






Day 30 of this 365-cycle (8/23/2026)

Remembering Stan Schmidt (11/7/1933 - 8/22/2010) - former executive director of **Mattie**'s Peace Foundation, dear friend, and ever the Feast Quester...



...sending love to his wife **Ann Yingling Schmidt** (still kickin'!) - former President of the Foundation, dear friend, and ever the amazing music director...

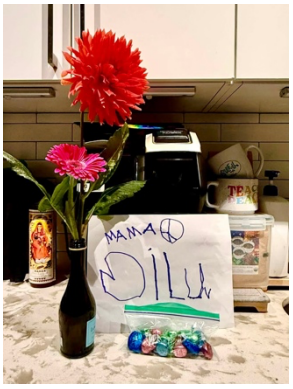
I love that these two nifty folks were the ones who lived in what was Mattie's and my home in King Farm when it was time for me to move on elsewhere....

Stan is thought of often, and Ann - you are missed by many at **Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church** (and by me).

Day 31 of this 365-cycle (8/24/2026)



St. Francis of Assisi reminds us that "it is in giving that we receive" ...



I spent a long chunk of Sunday sorting "stuff" in the Foundation storage room, and decided that a large box of eco-friendly art supplies might be best used at a local preschool attended by my neighbor friend (five-year-old Robbie). Robbie's mom told me he was so excited to see the paints and pads of paper and crayons that he went to his bedroom and created a thank you message: "Heart - I luv Mama Peace" without prompting or support. He left this with a flower at my door.



I enjoy giving time and presence to community engagement activities - and connecting with neighbors diverse in age, ability, and aspiration. As I was finishing up yesterday's tasks (including the storage room work) - I received a message from a friend who also gifts so much time to community and inclusion. She wanted to drop off a bag of delicious goodness - and many of the fresh veggies and nifty foods in the bag came from **The Hines Garden** - a local farm that has partnered with **Upcounty Community Resources, Inc.** for many years. And yep! another lovely flower as well!



Our world is small, and connected, and goodness ripples in ways we may not expect, but we can appreciate. I do not "give to receive" - but what blessings I do receive when I simply give, because it is good to give!

Day 32 of this 365-cycle (8/25/2026)



Today... one of those days when realities clash - but not in a horrible way. Just in a very real way - that gives me reason to pause... and to pray...

Dolly Parton died today - "peacefully" according to her family. Most folks were unaware of her ailments - she is that type of positive presence and private person. My humble assessment is that all that we ever wanted to believe about this amazing music artist and humanitarian - well, it is real. Believe!



When **Dolly** accepted the **We Are Family Foundation** "**Mattie Stepanek** Peacemaker Award" a few years back, she didn't just show up to accept (yet another) accolade. She was excited! Every recipient of this award matters. But she was among the handful of folks who prepared themselves to receive the honor. She met with me before the event, and told me she had read all seven of Mattie's books, and also my book about Mattie. She even cited (many) favorite poems and passages from the books. She said she was inspired by his messages of hope and peace, and by my resilience and perseverance, and that this particular award was uniquely special to her. When she later accepted the award, she was authentically grateful to be recognized and now related in some way to this boy who chose peace - despite challenges.



Dolly passed away at the age of 80 - while living fully, and positively, and with grit and grace and gratitude.

Shortly after hearing of her passing, I was on a bus for my visit with Mema. Today's afternoon activity at **Sterling Care** nursing home was a celebration of all the August birthday babies - folks who are now in their 60s to 90s - many of whom are languishing in life - including Mema who just turned 92... they are alive, and cared for by the staff, but in many ways - they are existing rather than living... and yet, they matter, just as Dolly matters. My humble assessment is that these folks of scattered old ages also have histories of vibrancy, and living with purpose... believe!

As I waited for the bus back home, I prayed... I prayed (I am sure) with gazillions of others - for Dolly's well-earned eternal peace and for her closest family and friends to be comforted in their loss-shaped sorrow... and I prayed (I am sure) with far fewer others - for all the folks who are ailing and aging - whose personal stories are unknown to the world and few are likely praying for - that they know - and believe - that they matter, and that one day, they will have the blessing of celebrating eternal peace - and perhaps enjoying a heavenly concert abundant with great country music.








we
we
we
we





Day 33 of this 365-cycle (8/26/2026)



Mema's nursing home had a "fashion show" for this afternoon's activity. Staff and residents walked or rolled the red carpet in their Sunday best, in cultural clothing, or cool casual styles. Sandy and I (the only two "family member" representatives) decided to make "whimsy" our fashion statement - she dressed as Kermit the Frog, and I sported as much of my "Maryland flag" attire as I could, and handed out dozens of Maryland flags because (of course) it is the niftiest flag ever! Residents and staff appreciated our humor and good cheer, and we enjoyed dancing and raising a glass with them after the show.



Bonus for today - a bit of time with **Jenn Lynn** and then time with members of the **UCR the new generation** group - just for the joy of connecting with community even when there isn't a "program." **#LifeIsWorthy**!





Day 34 of this 365-cycle (8/27/2026)

So today's post on "worthy'ness vs weary'ness" is easy. It is simple gratitude, and the blessing of community.

I have known for several weeks that the **Mattie Stepanek** Peace Foundation was invited to be one of the three nonprofits featured in tomorrow morning's **Fox 5 Zip Trip** segment. But I mistakenly assumed (my bad!) that they provided tents and tables and chairs, and only found out a little earlier today that I needed to come up with those things by myself before 7:30 tomorrow morning (uh oh!)...

Instead of going into a panic, I began putting out local "asks" - and the community helped spread the word... and yep! we are going to be okay for tomorrow.



Thanks go to **Susan Farag** for sharing the folding table she uses for extra Thanksgiving guests - we will set it with peace!

Thanks go to Zeinna Prince of **The Square Rockville** who is sharing one of her tents with us tomorrow morning!

Special thanks go to **Sylvia Sgambati Jones**, **Allison Mooney Gangloff**, **Barry Jackson**, and **Adam Van Grack** for helping me sort the challenge.

And a very special thank you to **Holly Ange** for helping me prep and pack the materials that will be part of our Foundation tent and table display and giveaway nifty'ness during the segment tomorrow.

A very popular Mattie quote comes to mind - that was truly a demonstrated reality today:
"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved."

Tune in to FOX5 (8-11a) tomorrow... or better yet - **#JustShowUp** - and help us **#MakePeaceTheNews**!

Day 35 of this 365-cycle (8/28/2026)



Loved that the **Mattie Stepanek** Peace Foundation was featured on this morning's **Fox 5 DC** Zip Trip at **The Square Rockville**...

and love-love-loved that so many community members (especially from **Upcounty Community Resources, Inc.** (**UCR**) and **Main Street Connect**) chose to **#JustShowUp** in their peace shirts and with joyful enthusiasm!

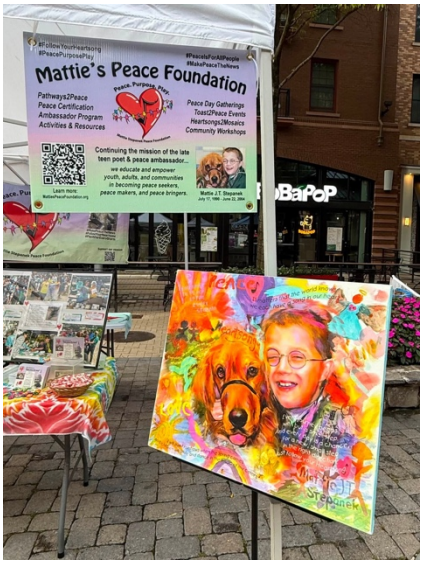
Enjoy some photos from this night opportunity to **#MakePeaceTheNews**!






Peace. Purpose. Play.




Mattie's Peace Foundation
Pathways2Peace
Peace Certification
Ambassador Program
Activities & Resources
Peace Day Gatherings
Toast2Peace Events
Heartsongs2Mosaics
Community Workshops
BaPoP


"Together
we can gently
remind the world
– the leaders and
the children –
that peace
is possible,
because peace
begins
with a choice.
Our choice."
Mattie J.T. Stepanek


Peace. Purpose. Play.
Peace Purpose Play
MattiesPeaceFoundation.org


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Peace Purpose Play
MattiesPeaceFoundation.org


Mattie's Peace Foundation
Peace. Purpose. Play.
Peace Purpose Play
MattiesPeaceFoundation.org




LIVE: ROCKVILLE, MD
DMV 250
FOX 5 ZIP TRIP
#GOODDAYDC
GOOD DAY 10
QUIZZING IT OUT IN ROCKVILLE, MD!
10:13 AM 80°

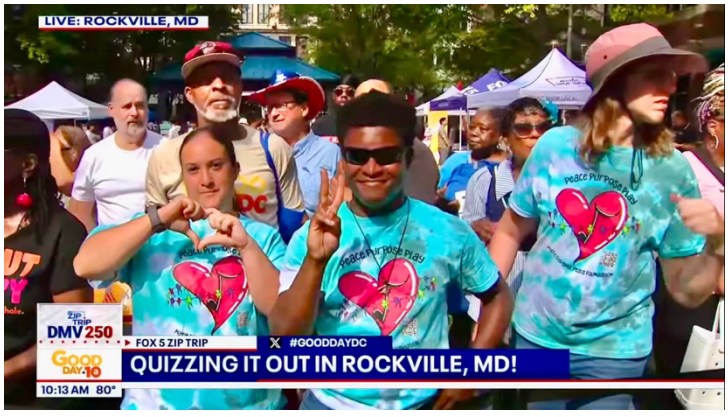

DONUT WORRY


LIVE: ROCKVILLE, MD
DMV 250
FOX 5 ZIP TRIP
#GOODDAYDC
FOX5
CELEBRATING ROCKVILLE, MD!
10:13 AM 80°


Blessings To Virginia's Family


LIVE: ROCKVILLE, MD
DMV 250
FOX 5 ZIP TRIP
#GOODDAYDC
FOX5
CELEBRATING ROCKVILLE, MD!
10:13 AM 80°


TRUST IN THE LORD


LIVE: ROCKVILLE, MD
DMV 250
FOX 5 ZIP TRIP
#GOODDAYDC
GOOD DAY 10
QUIZZING IT OUT IN ROCKVILLE, MD!
10:13 AM 80°


Peace Purpose Play
MatriesPeaceFoundation.org


Peace. Purpose. Play.




FOX 5


peace purpose play




Peace Purpose Play


LEBANESE TAVERNA
Peace Purpose Play


FOX5
Maine Steadmer Peace Foundation


FOX5
Peace Purpose Play


The Salvation Army
FOX5
fox5dc.com

Day 36 of this 365-cycle (8/29/2026)



Interesting day... a mix of housework and purpose work... and also a mix of peaceful folk music and an interruption to peace by an unknown folk - who is clearly in need of prayerful support and intervention...

Some routine Mama Peace Pad chores and daily work tasks - all anticipated and on my calendar...

Some unanticipated folk music during an afternoon concert on **The Square** in downtown **Rockville** and a chance to say hey to **Sen. Cheryl C. Kagan** - wow! lovely! I happened upon this while heading to pick up a few groceries...

Some unsettling moments during my shopping venture - well, that involved hanging around (with numerous other shoppers and staff) to share with police about our different perspectives and experiences during a rather aggressive happening in the store...



One police officer asked - "are you okay?"

I am absolutely fine. But I am concerned and praying for a man who clearly needs some support and intervention. I don't know who he is, but I am pretty sure he is not okay.

Another police officer asked - "do you want to press charges?"

I absolutely do not! There is no reason to add to a person's challenges in life nor reason to escalate a person's distress simply because it is legally allowed.

I am sharing because I am a recognizable person, and there were folks staring and whispering as Mattie's mom / Mama Peace chatted with police. However, sharing the specific details on social media is unnecessary - and risks promoting idle chatter and assumptions rather than the prayers and support this person needs.

Today - I ask that folks reading this post simply pause - and offer a brief but sincere prayer for any other folks who are feeling so hopeless or discarded or desperate that they say and do unkind things... may they be offered (and may they accept) what they need to be more "okay" - and realize that they matter.





Day 37 of this 365-cycle (8/30/2026)



A beautiful and purposeful celebration of life...

We chatted about **Mattie** and about **Meghan**, we reflected on how they continue to matter, we placed **#MeghanRocks** around the Peace Garden - gifts for folks to find, we added more Peace Messages to the ones folks created during the July Peace Day event, we dissolved all the messages and then poured these words of hope and connection into the garden - to become one with the earth and to nurture growth and goodness...

...we laughed, and we loved, and we left a bit of ourselves in this special space, and we left - touched by the essence of folks in an eternal special space...



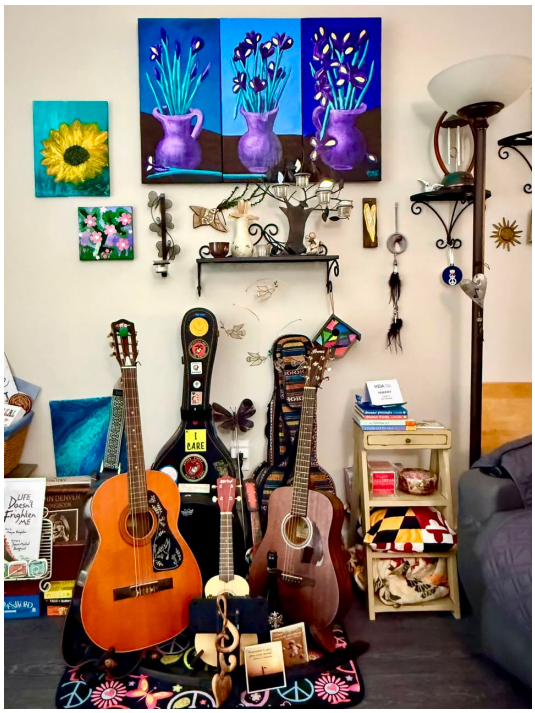


Day 38 of this 365-cycle (8/31/2026)





How is it already August 31? Where did the summer go? Every day was packed - with work and chores and tasks, and also peace and purpose and play - but I blinked, and another summer is headed into the books of time passed... the good news? time past still brings smiles to present days...



Photos: August 31 last year - painting sunflowers with **Sandra Newcomb**... and a Mama Peace Pad wall August 31 this year... I celebrate being a memory curator!