

**FRANK K. KELLY ANNUAL LECTURE
ON HUMANITY'S FUTURE**



**GLORIOUS BEINGS:
WHAT WE ARE AND WHAT WE MAY BECOME**

A Project of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

The Foundation

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation initiates and supports worldwide efforts to abolish nuclear weapons, to strengthen international law and institutions, to use technology responsibly and sustainably, and to empower youth to create a more peaceful world.

Founded in 1982, the Foundation is comprised of individuals and organizations worldwide who realize the imperative for peace in the Nuclear Age.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan international education and advocacy organization. It has consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council and is recognized by the UN as a Peace Messenger Organization.

Vision

Our vision is a world at peace, free of the threat of war and free of weapons of mass destruction.

Mission

To advance initiatives to eliminate the nuclear weapons threat to all life, to foster the global rule of law, and to build an enduring legacy of peace through education and advocacy.

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Frank K. Kelly Annual Lecture On Humanity's Future



The Frank K. Kelly Annual Lecture on Humanity's Future was inaugurated in February 2002. The lecture series honors Frank K. Kelly, a founder and senior vice-president of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation.

Frank Kelly has had a remarkable life. He has been a science fiction writer, a journalist, a soldier in World War II, a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, a speechwriter for President Truman, the assistant to the US Senate Majority Leader, vice-president of the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, and a leader in the campaign to create the US Institute for Peace. He is the author of nine books and uncounted articles.

Beyond all of his achievements, Frank has had a remarkable faith in humanity and its future. He has lived with a spirit of optimism and hope, as a visionary advocate for humanity. He has inspired many people through his writing and teaching to take action on behalf of a more humane and decent future for humanity.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, along with many of Frank's friends, sought to honor him by establishing the Frank K. Kelly Lecture on Humanity's Future. The lecture will be given annually by a distinguished individual and will be widely distributed by the Foundation. Frank himself gave the inaugural lecture in 2002.

INTRODUCTION

This is the inaugural lecture in a new series of annual lectures sponsored by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. The lectures were established to honor Frank K. Kelly, a man of remarkable vision and a founder of the Foundation. The official title of the lecture series is the Frank K. Kelly Annual Lecture on Humanity's Future. As the name implies, the lectures are focused on humanity's future, a subject that Frank has been thinking about since he began writing science fiction as a teenager.

While the work to create a more peaceful future emphasizes the necessity of the many immediate challenges confronting us today, the Frank K. Kelly Lecture seeks to take a longer view, affirming humanity's positive spirit and fullest potential, offering an alternative future based on peace, understanding and cooperation.

We were fortunate that Frank was able to give the inaugural lecture in the series because Frank has a great vision for humanity's future. This has been formed from his strong innate belief in humanity's great potential, as well as from his varied experiences during a long and distinguished career. Frank was a reporter for the Kansas City Star, where he followed in the footsteps of another young writer, Ernest Hemingway. He was a soldier and reporter in World War II, serving in Europe and being there at the liberation of Paris. After World War II, Frank spent some time on Madison Avenue. He then took a job writing speeches for President Truman, helping the President to win reelection in 1948.

For the next four years, Frank served as assistant to the Senate Majority Leader, where he learned of the tremendous pressures and time constraints on members of the Senate. In the mid-1950s, Frank joined educator Robert Hutchins at the Fund for the Republic and fought against McCarthyism. When Hutchins set up the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions in Santa Barbara, Frank went with him as vice president of the new Center. The experience of his 19 years at the Center is described in Frank's book, *Court of Reason*.

In 1982 when the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation was formed, Frank was one of the founders, and has served as the Foundation's senior vice president for the past 20 years. During this period, and in earlier years at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, I have had the privilege of working closely with Frank. He is an exceptional human being, and his resume, as impressive as it is, doesn't touch the core of the man.

One of Frank's favorite lines in poetry comes from William Blake: "*He who kisses joy as it flies, lives in eternity's sunrise.*" Frank is a person who not only kisses joy as it flies, but also grabs onto it, hugs it, loves it, dances and sings with it, and laughs with it. Frank has a great capacity for joy. He has an extraordinary sense of optimism and hope about the future. He loves to inspire young people and he is an inspiration to people of all ages.

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FRANK BELIEVES THAT WE ARE ALL “GLORIOUS BEINGS,” AND THAT A GREAT FUTURE LIES AHEAD FOR HUMANITY. OUR CHALLENGE IS TO LIVE UP TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF THIS VISIONARY MAN, AND TO ASSUME OUR SHARE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR CREATING A FUTURE THAT WE CAN BE PROUD TO PASS ON TO THE GENERATIONS THAT WILL FOLLOW US.

In many ways, Frank represents the best of what humanity can be. He is now 88 years old, and he’s still thinking about the future. Frank has impressive dreams of establishing a Center for Humanity’s Future, a center that would concern itself with creating a future in which every person would live with dignity and have a seat at humanity’s table. This lecture series is the first tangible effort to bring Frank’s vision of such a center to reality.

Each year we will invite a distinguished individual to follow in Frank’s footsteps and deliver a lecture on humanity’s future. We’ll be publishing these lectures and distributing them widely. I hope that they will provide the basis for some wonderful dialogue on the subjects raised, both here in Santa Barbara and throughout the world by means of electronic and other forms of communication.

Frank believes that we are all “glorious beings,” and that a great future lies ahead for humanity. Our challenge is to live up to the expectations of this visionary man, and to assume our share of responsibility for creating a future that we can be proud to pass on to the generations that will follow us.

David Krieger
President
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation



Frank Kelly delivers the inaugural address of the Frank K. Kelly Annual Lecture on Humanity’s Future to a standing-room only audience. Photo by Rick Carter.

GLORIOUS BEINGS: WHAT WE ARE AND WHAT WE MAY BECOME

BY FRANK K. KELLY

It is a tremendous joy for me to be here tonight – to share with you my visions of humanity’s future. I have great expectations for this gathering, because I see glorious beings all around me. You are glorious because you are connected to the starry skies that shine beyond this hall. You have radiating through you the glory that fills this marvelous universe. It is vast; it extends far beyond our sight, and yet we are closely related to it. Dr. Brian Swimme, a noted physicist, says: “The vastness of the universe couldn’t have been otherwise... This universe, which is 30 billion light years across, is the smallest universe we could fit into... The universe had to expand at this rate to enable our existence... We belong here. This is home. This has been our home for 15 billion years... If you altered the origin of the universe even just slightly, none of us would be here. That means, then, that our existence is implicit. We don’t only stand on our feet... We stand on the original fireball; we stand on the expansion of the universe as a whole...”

When I gaze at your luminous faces I am convinced the physicists are right. I am also sure that Albert Einstein was right when he said that if we could understand what we really are we would know that we are glowing fields of electromagnetic energy. We are also collections of vibrating molecules composed of dancing atoms filled with positive and negative charges. And yet we are more than all that. The physicists can describe what we are but they cannot describe who we are.

I know that there are auras of light around your amazing bodies, and your immortal souls are shining through your eyes. Look at one another. Listen to one another. Touch one another. Become aware of what marvelous beings you are. You are far more involved in shaping the future than you have begun to realize. You know that humanity is in a tragic situation. You are surrounded by more dangers than any generation before you – and yet you have more strength, more technological knowledge, more allies to help you than you have begun to realize.

How do I dare to make such statements to you? I dare because I have lived in this body for almost ninety years – and in my long life I have experienced many miracles. In my science fiction I became a pioneer of wonder. I leaped from planet to planet. I predicted some of the transformations through which humanity has already passed. I had glimpses of many more.

One world has never been enough for me. When I was a child I was drawn to the stars. I imagined that I came from another galaxy. When I walked at night in my father’s backyard and gazed at those blazing lights, I did not feel dwarfed by them or overcome by their immensity. I wanted to look over the horizon, to search for the hidden marvels, to see the unseen, to hear the signals that might be coming from other forms of life. I did not regard the stars as menacing or as solar centers for alien creatures more powerful than human beings. I saw them as playgrounds for my mind and spirit – and I still do.

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SCIENTISTS PLAY WITH IDEAS AND EQUATIONS AND MAKE DISCOVERIES THAT ENABLE US TO GO FARTHER AND FASTER THAN WE HAVE EVER GONE BEFORE. SOME OF THOSE SCIENTISTS BROUGHT US INTO THE NUCLEAR AGE AND MADE US REALIZE THAT WE MUST FIND WAYS OF LIVING IN PEACE OR CONFRONT UNPARALLELED CATASTROPHES.

I believe that we human beings will triumph over all the horrible problems we may face and over the bloody history which tempts us to despair, because we pray and we play. Through prayer we connect with the grace that pours in an endless stream from the Spirit, we discover what Einstein and other great beings discovered: “Everyone who is involved in the pursuit of science becomes convinced that a spirit is manifest in the laws of the universe – a spirit vastly superior to that of man, and one in the face of which we... must be humble.” Yes, we must be humble but we must rejoice in our awareness of that Spirit moving through us, acting through us, shaping the future with us.

Through play we discover our kinship with the Almighty Being who brought us into life. God laughs and dances, God gave us the power to find endless joy in singing and dancing, in celebrating birthdays and holidays, in creating the Olympic Games and all the other games developed by people all over the earth. Scientists play with ideas and equations and make discoveries that enable us to go farther and faster than we have ever gone before. Some of those scientists brought us into the Nuclear Age and made us realize that we must find ways of living in peace or confront unparalleled catastrophes.

I grew up in a praying and playing family. I was born during a thunderstorm in an old house in Kansas City to a young mother who was dazzled by the flashes of lightning around her. My father was a firefighter, with dragons tattooed on his arms and enough nerve to try anything. Before he became a fireman he had been around the world as a sailor – and he had a variety of experiences to show him that human beings were enticing and frightening, sometimes loving and sometimes savage, builders and destroyers. As a child I loved to see him drive a big red truck from the fire station – a truck pulled by four white horses. I thought he was glorious and saw my mother’s radiant beauty as a sign of glory, too.

I went to Catholic schools where I was taught that I shared in the creative mightiness that had shaped the stars. I believed that I was made by an Omnipotent One who delighted in making things new – who was present in every bird and tree, every dog and cat, every whale and walrus, every tiny insect and every towering elephant, every field and forest, every man and woman. I was assured that I was made in the very image of that creator, who spoke through every song and swayed in every dance, who felt every joy and every pain, who panted with every runner in a long race, exulted in every batter who smacked a home run, who was sad with every one who struck out.

And I had a special teacher, a nun named Sister Mary Alacoque, who treated me and all of her students with deep respect. “I see God in you,” she said. She spoke freely of the spark of divinity she glimpsed in us. We were great, we were full of grace, we were headed for the heights of heaven.

When I began to write science fiction stories, she did not laugh at me. She encouraged me to let my mind run without limits. She told me that God had given me some of his creative gifts, some of his daring, some of his cosmic imagination.

She also warned me that I would be tested, that I would go through trials and

tribulations. Everybody had to endure sorrows and to bear pain: That was inherent in being human, in going through the crucible of creation and shaping the future. That was her message – and the message I also received from other teachers. At every stage in my existence, that message of being tested and challenged came to me with messages of confidence and courage – most often from women but sometimes from men who demonstrated to me the strength of friendship when I was almost ready to abandon hope.

While I was writing my interplanetary tales in the 1930s, the world around me was full of agonies. Millions of people were starving to death in dire poverty, and other millions fought for bread and jobs. The Nazis in Germany murdered Jews, Christians, and all their opponents; Fascists led by General Franco took over Spain, Stalin ordered the deaths of peasants in the Soviet Union; Japanese militarists invaded China. National Guardsmen prepared to put down revolts in the United States, where millions of men and women were jobless and desperate.

THE SUFFERING OF HUMANITY

The sufferings of humanity were reflected in my stories. I described the plight of people who fled to dark cities on the moon. I wrote about people who were exiles on Mars and other planets in the solar system. I depicted the hunt for scientific solutions to social problems, the surge of technological inventions, the mechanization of life, the slaughter of revolutionaries. In one story I predicted a Japanese military attack on the United States, occurring in 1940. In another, I described a possible war between the Soviet Union and America, in which both sides used long-range rockets to obliterate cities. I saw the future coming then in blood and terror, but I kept on believing that the people on this strange planet would evolve toward higher levels of compassion and develop many ways to care for one another.

When I entered the University of Kansas City in 1935, I encountered a professor who urged me to abandon science fiction and to grapple with the realities of my own time. He asked me to submit a story to a new magazine which offered prizes for serious fiction by college students. I wrote one called “With Some Gaiety and Laughter” which brought me to the attention of people in Europe and Latin America, and opened a way for me to enter the field of journalism.

The story was about a man whose only possession was a recording of human laughter – the laughter which kept him from committing suicide, the laughter which assured him of the ability of human beings to endure everything and to triumph over the tribulations they encountered. The acclaim given to that story, its translation into several languages, and its use by a commentator on the National Broadcasting Company’s main radio network, impressed editors at the Kansas City Star. I was offered a job which altered the direction of my life.

I spent my first ten months on the Star’s staff primarily on death notices. As a young man I had not given much thought to death. In those ten months I gained a deeper appreciation of the significance of each human life and its boundaries. An editor told me: “People read death notices more carefully than any other pieces in the paper. Any mistakes you make will be painful.” I was given a list of morticians and I called them every night. Then I had to talk to family members and friends of the persons who had died. Every detail in every story had to be thoroughly checked.

I NOTED THAT WOMEN WERE OFTEN SUBJECTED TO PHYSICAL INJURIES BY MEN, BUT RARELY ENGAGED IN VIOLENT ACTS THEMSELVES. I HAD ALWAYS BEEN GRATEFUL FOR THE KINDNESSES OF WOMEN, FOR THEIR TENDERNESS AND NURTURING AFFECTIONS FOR THEIR PARENTS, THEIR SISTERS AND BROTHERS, THEIR LOVERS AND HUSBANDS, THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR FRIENDS.

The mystery and the complexity of being human came home to me in those conversations. I learned about the qualities most cherished by sons and daughters, by wives and husbands, by grandchildren and associates. I was informed of the achievements of young people in studies and sports, and of the many gifts people had displayed in their active years; the endurance of sickness and suffering, the capacity for humor in the worst of circumstances, the instances of hospitality and generosity, the kindness extended to strangers and servants, the efforts made to serve those who needed help. I heard about people who became more exuberant as they advanced in years, who confirmed the truth of Pablo Picasso's statement that "it takes a long time to become young," and I listened to the praises of those who struggled with crippling diseases, those who dealt cheerfully with handicaps, and those who were heroic in peace and war.

The people whose lives and departures were reported to the Star were generally in the middle or upper classes. Blacks were seldom mentioned. Kansas City was a segregated place in those years. Blacks and other minorities were in the background, living in their own atmosphere, covered by their own publications. They had their own activities, their own churches, their own doctors and ministers, their own hospitals, their own cemeteries.

During my months in the field of obituaries, I came to believe that there were many good and generous people in the community. If everybody behaved as well as the people whose lives were described to me, then humanity was evolving in the right direction. I was disturbed by the fact that I knew little about the black people and the many poor families existing in my city, but I assumed that they had the same good values as the hundreds of persons I wrote about in the columns of the Star. I hoped that I would get to know people of different colors and different ethnic backgrounds as I went on with my work as a reporter.

After I became an expert in briefly describing many lives, I was suddenly taken from the hushed atmosphere of the morticians into the hectic atmosphere of the General Hospital. I rode in ambulances with drivers and doctors to the scenes of accidents, explosions, fires, murders, and domestic violence. I saw people lying in the streets or bleeding in the back rooms of apartments and boarding houses. I discovered that many men were brutal. Men shot one another, strangled one another, attacked one another, stabbed their enemies and sometimes their friends, tried to destroy one another. They beat their wives and their children. Often under the influence of alcohol and other drugs, they crashed into one another with their automobiles, ran over pedestrians, and exploded with rage when they were frustrated. They often had to be shackled or restrained by tough policemen.

AN IMPORTANT LESSON

I noted that women were often subjected to physical injuries by men, but rarely engaged in violent acts themselves. I had always been grateful for the kindnesses of women, for their tenderness and nurturing affections for their parents, their sisters and brothers, their lovers and husbands, their children and their friends. I knew that they had human faults and failings; I knew they could be angry and speak harshly about

other people; they could be dominating and vindictive, and occasionally inflict blows on other women and men; but they were rarely killers. They seldom inflicted the severe physical wounds that men did. I became convinced that the future of humanity depended partly upon the civilizing influences of women.

My estimates of men were strongly affected by my experiences as a reporter at the General Hospital. Before that, I was influenced by my father's adventurous nature. He left home at 16 to see the world and he had been in many countries. He expected me to be as active and restless as he was, and I tried to fulfill his expectations. In my science fiction I had shocked and surprised him.

When I was 3 years old, in 1917, he had responded to President Woodrow Wilson's call for a declaration of war against Germany. He had rushed off to enlist in the army. He was eager to crush the German Kaiser, to make the world safe for democracy, and to fight in a war to end war. I had to wear a little soldier's uniform and salute him when he came back from an officers' training camp. He became a captain in the infantry and went into combat in France. He returned eventually with a large wound in his neck and nightmares from hand-to-hand struggles with Germans in the trenches over there. He often woke up screaming, believing that he was confronting a German who was trying to rip him open with a bloody bayonet. He made me realize the basic savagery of war.

In war, men sought glory by wounding or killing one another and by proving their willingness to sacrifice their lives for their countries or their causes. The young Germans my father encountered in the trenches in the 1914-1918 war were as brave as he was, as sure as he was that what they did for the Fatherland was right. Millions of men died in that war, striving to demonstrate their manhood.

I remember the Armistice Day in 1918 – that faraway November day when the slaughter stopped. I remember the ringing of church bells, the screaming of sirens, the tumultuous noise of celebrations. I also remember the weeping and wailing of a woman in the boarding house where my mother and I were staying while my father was in France. I clung to my mother and tried to hide my face from the awful sounds of grief. That woman had received a telegram telling her that her husband had been killed in one of the last battles. I will never forget her cries and her anguish.

Why did glorious beings destroy one another? Why did young men, full of health and vigor, use knives and guns to kill one another in bloody holes in the ground? I begged my mother to tell me why, but her answers did not calm my heart or stop the howling of that woman in torment. She said the Kaiser's armies had to be defeated, to save the world from his evil rule. Then there would be peace and joy for freedom-loving people.

When I had to go into the American army in World War II, to eliminate the evil Fuehrer Hitler and the Japanese militarists who had attacked my country, I was assured that there would be peace and joy when those monsters were exterminated. They were smashed and those of us who had fought against them celebrated wildly, but then we learned that the evil Stalin and his minions, who had been America's allies in that struggle, had to be removed, too. The battle against Stalin and the communists was called a "cold war" because it required different methods of combat but it had to be waged with

ROOSEVELT ASSERTED THAT THE NATION STOOD FOR FOUR BASIC FREEDOMS VITAL TO HUMAN PROGRESS: FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION; FREEDOM OF WORSHIP; FREEDOM FROM WANT (BY ASSURING TO EVERY NATION A HEALTHY, PEACEFUL LIFE FOR ITS INHABITANTS); AND FREEDOM FROM FEAR, BY REDUCING MILITARY ARMS EVERYWHERE.

all the resources available because the future of humanity was at stake.

In 1948, I was asked to write speeches for a President, Harry Truman, who had been compelled to make the most horrendous decision in history – the decision to use atom bombs against Japan to end the Second World War. I discovered that he had given much thought to the creation of a global organization to save humanity from the scourge of war. He carried in his wallet a visionary poem by Alfred Tennyson, written in 1842, predicting a final war involving aerial navies which led to the formation of a Federation for the World, a Parliament for humanity.

Truman had helped to create the United Nations and he had determined to make it effective in enabling humanity to enter an unprecedented era of lasting peace and enduring prosperity for everyone. The success of the Marshall Plan, carried out under his leadership, had saved Western Europe from economic chaos. He wanted to see the rich countries devote some of their knowledge and tremendous resources to aid the poor nations to reduce or eliminate poverty all over the planet. He believed that a “decent, satisfying life” was “the right of all people.”

US LEADERSHIP IN THE POST-WAR WORLD

The campaign Harry Truman ran in 1948 was based on the conviction that “the destiny of the United States is to provide leadership in the world toward a realization of the Four Freedoms.” Those freedoms were described in an address to the American Congress in 1941 by Truman’s predecessor, Franklin D. Roosevelt. Roosevelt asserted that the nation stood for four basic freedoms vital to human progress: Freedom of speech and expression; freedom of worship; freedom from want (by assuring to every nation a healthy, peaceful life for its inhabitants); and freedom from fear, by reducing military arms everywhere.

Roosevelt and Truman accepted the generous idea that the United States must help people everywhere secure an abundant life after the carnage of World War II. The United States had emerged from that horrifying struggle with a booming economy – and the future seemed full of unlimited possibilities. They did not want the American people to fall back into the isolationism which had caused the country to retreat from its responsibilities after the first global war. They felt that the future of humanity depended upon the ethical behavior of a giant nation which had attained amazing heights of power and prosperity – and had no real rivals.

I shared the hopes of those leaders. I had lived through the transformation of the United States from a country with millions of unemployed and desperate citizens into a place with dazzling opportunities in every field. The United States was far ahead of other countries in scientific and technical advances. It had absorbed millions of immigrants and refugees from other parts of the world. It had become a glorious place.

The political experts and the pollsters in 1948 failed to see that Truman’s program and his hard-hitting speeches appealed to the American people. All of them said that he would lose, but he won. The editors of the Atlantic Monthly Press in Boston, who had accepted my first book, thought that I had made a mistake in becoming a speech writer

for Truman. They persuaded Boston University to appoint me as a professor in the school of communications. I was glad to get that position because I did not want a government job in Washington. I enjoyed working for Truman but I did not seek a federal appointment. I was primarily a writer, not a politician.

When Truman triumphed, however, I was asked to become a special assistant to the Majority Leader of the Senate. In that place, I was expected to have a role in getting Truman's proposals enacted into law. I shared his vision of what humanity needed and I returned to Washington with enthusiasm. I served there for four years – years of conflict and frustrations, years of fear and turmoil in which Senator Joseph McCarthy frightened many Americans into believing that the Truman administration had been infiltrated by communists.

I saw powerful senators succumb to fear when they were attacked by McCarthy. Truman's proposals for a national health insurance plan were defeated by medical lobbyists. His civil rights bills and other important measures did not get much support in the Senate. The Marshall Plan did move forward, however, with the backing of Arthur Vandenberg and other far-sighted Republicans. I made my office in the Capitol available for use by Paul Hoffman, Averell Harriman, and others involved in the administration of the Marshall Plan.

On many votes in the Senate, I was struck by the significant impacts of lobbyists who shaped many of the bills that passed and defeated others. I asked Wayne Morse of Oregon one night, while a vote was occurring: "How many senators will vote in accordance with their consciences?" Morse replied slowly: "About twenty of them, I think. All of the others have strings on them." I saw then that it was virtually impossible to get the Senate to support Truman's position that the United States should provide leadership in the world toward a realization of the Four Freedoms.

Truman seldom showed any signs of depression in those turbulent times. I learned later that he frequently repeated a prayer he had used since he was 18 years old: "Almighty and Everlasting God, Creator of Heaven, Earth and the Universe, help me to be, to think, to act what is right because it is right; make me truthful, honest, and honorable in all things; make me intellectually honest, for the sake of right and honor and without thought of reward to me. Give me the ability to be charitable, forgiving, and patient with my fellow man – help me to understand their motives and their shortcomings, even as Thou understandest mine! – Amen, amen, amen."

Truman's prayer showed that he felt a connection to the Creator of the universe. As a human being, he had tremendous freedoms and tremendous responsibilities. Like Einstein, he believed there was a creative spirit in the universe, far above him and beyond him, and he was humbled by that belief. He asked for help from the Everlasting God, but he acknowledged his own duty to decide what was right and to do what was right.

I had an opportunity to talk with him about his major decisions as President. In an interview in the White House, he spoke candidly about how he had reached those decisions. When I asked him about the decision to use atom bombs on Japan, I saw anguish in his eyes. He made it clear that he felt the weight of what he had done.

THE PREAMBLE FOR OUR PROPOSED MODEL FOR A NEW CONSTITUTION CONTAINED A DECLARATION THAT IT WAS DESIGNED “TO WELCOME THE FUTURE IN GOOD ORDER.” WE THOUGHT THAT EVERY HUMAN BEING SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT THAT. WE COULD SEE THAT THE FUTURE HAD MENACING ASPECTS AS WELL AS GLORIOUS POSSIBILITIES.

“You remember what old General Sherman said about war,” Truman reminded me. “He said that war was hell. And he was right. We were in hell when I made that decision. We were firebombing Japanese cities, killing thousands of Japanese men, women and children. We were preparing to invade Japan, and that invasion would have cost many thousands of lives. I wanted to stop the killing. I wanted to stop the war. I knew the atom bombs would destroy many people, but I was told that they might shock the Emperor into an act of surrender.”

Truman looked at me and then he said: “You know, Frank, the Japanese are just as human as you and I are. I wanted to save Japanese lives as well as American lives.” His decision will always be controversial because the war might have been ended without the atom bombs, but I was convinced that he did what he thought was right. He knew that the Japanese people were members of humanity – and every human life was precious.

In that interview – which I conducted in preparation for a chapter about Truman in a later book – he spoke with confidence and hope. He predicted that the Soviet system would collapse and that Americans and Russians would work together in a future parliament for humanity – a federation for the world. The success of the Marshall Plan encouraged him to believe that people everywhere could eventually take positive steps to end poverty.

I left Washington in 1952, to become the United States director of the International Press Institute’s study of world news, financed by a grant from the Ford Foundation. My experience in the Truman era indicated to me that the American people were not well informed about what was really going on in other countries and in the United States. The International Press Institute study showed clearly that Americans were not getting enough information from the press and broadcasting companies to make good judgments on the major developments affecting the future.

THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

Four years later I became vice president of the Fund for the Republic, an educational foundation dedicated to upholding the American Constitution and the Bill of Rights. In 1959 the Fund established in Santa Barbara a Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, a unique organization which brought together people from many backgrounds to examine the conditions necessary for the survival of human freedoms in an age of revolutionary changes.

The Center blazed across the world’s horizons for twenty-two years. It helped to prevent a war between the United States and the Soviet Union. It fostered efforts to end the tragic conflict in Vietnam. It was a pioneer in the environment movement. It shed light on the political and economic activities of corporations and labor unions. It sponsored discussions of the significant role of religion in a free society. It called attention to the deficiencies of the mass media and the destructive potentialities of commercial television. It published a model for a new American Constitution, designed to protect human liberties and to indicate human responsibilities for a constructive fu-

ture. It brought together thousands of people in dialogues and conferences in Santa Barbara, San Francisco, Chicago, New York, Washington, Malta, and Geneva. It became an “early warning” system for humanity.

In my sixteen years of participation in the Center’s work, I gained a full appreciation of the value of long-range thinking. I heard the ideas of brilliant people from every field of human endeavor – atomic scientists, philosophers, anthropologists, diplomats, bishops, theologians, psychologists, novelists, poets, artists, peace activists, Supreme Court judges, senators, governors, presidential candidates, playwrights, labor leaders, university administrators, state and local legislators, economists, and others. I argued with Nobel Prize winners and questioned scholars who were employed by the Center to make major revisions of the Encyclopedia Britannica. Groups of these scholars examined the future of law, economics, philosophy, religion, and politics.

On the Center staff, we planned meetings on science and world affairs, on the systematic study of technology, on the prospects for democracy in the new nations that had arisen after the collapse of the European colonial empires, on the possible changes in the American character in an affluent society, and the inescapable connections between the American problems and world problems. We had an insatiable thirst for knowledge about everything that was going on in every area of human activity – and we were intensely concerned about the effects of current events on the lives of coming generations. We were accused of inventing a new sin – “intellectual gluttony.” I was among those guilty of that sin. I wanted to know all there was to know about everything.

The preamble for our proposed model for a new Constitution contained a declaration that it was designed “to welcome the future in good order.” We thought that every human being should be concerned about that. We could see that the future had menacing aspects as well as glorious possibilities.

A NATIONAL PEACE ACADEMY CAMPAIGN

I left the Center in 1975 after it went through a drastic reorganization. After several years of writing books and articles, I had another chance to engage in a project with repercussions on humanity’s future. I was invited to join the board of directors of the National Peace Academy Campaign, which had been created to get Congress to approve an idea which had been around for almost two centuries – the formation of a federal institution to “promote and preserve perpetual peace.”

In 1793, when George Washington was president, two glorious beings – a black mathematician named Benjamin Banneker and Dr. Benjamin Rush, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence – deplored the fact that the new nation had a War Department but no Peace Department. They launched a proposal to create a “Peace Office for the United States.” They didn’t get much support.

In the 19th century, various members of Congress and others tried to bring a Department of Peace into existence, but they weren’t able to get enough public backing for the idea to be seriously considered. Yet it was revived in various forms in the next century. In the 1970s, in connection with the Bicentennial Celebration of the American Republic, Senator Hartke of Indiana and Senator Mark Hatfield of Oregon spon-

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sored a bill “to establish an educational institute” to promote understanding of “the process and state of peace.” The United States had been involved in many wars, and they thought it was time for this country “to consider the dimensions of peaceful resolution of differences.”

Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island, an old friend of mine, held hearings on the Hartke-Hatfield bill and suggested the formation of a national commission to examine proposals for a Peace Academy. The commission came into existence in 1980, conducted public hearings in locations ranging from Hawaii to Massachusetts, and finally endorsed the establishment of such an academy. In 1984, through an amendment attached by Senator Hatfield to a huge Defense Department appropriation, a few million dollars were made available for what was then called the U.S. Institute of Peace. That achievement came almost 200 years after the proposal offered by Benjamin Banneker and Benjamin Rush.

The institute had the support of majorities in both branches of Congress, largely due to the activities of the National Peace Academy Campaign. When I got into the Campaign I recruited Henry Burnett of Santa Barbara, a direct-mail expert, who managed to increase our membership from 3,000 to more than 30,000 persons, who brought immediate pressures upon Congress. We were delighted by the triumph of the idea after such a long struggle.

It is my belief that the Peace Institute will have many constructive impacts upon humanity’s future. It has been steadily supported by the Congress for the last eighteen years. Plans for a headquarters building near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington are now under way. The building will provide space for many activities, including a laboratory for “leading edge research on issues of peacemaking”; a “central venue for convening parties engaged in ongoing conflicts”; a “training ground for diplomats, military personnel, international relief agency professionals, economic development officers and other practitioners working in areas of continuing, recent, or potential conflicts”; a “classroom for educating generations of international relations and foreign policy professionals and specialists in the skills of conflict management”; a “public relations information hub for disseminating relevant materials and information on issues of international conflicts and peacemaking”; a “focal point for heightening public awareness and understanding about the nature of international conflicts” and “a national and international clearinghouse where ideas and initiatives can be aired, exchanged, and promoted.”

For the first time in the history of this nation, in a tragic time when the country needs to become aware of the many methods for resolving conflicts without military action, a Peace Institute will become a visible presence in the nation’s capital. Millions of visitors from all over the world, as well as millions of Americans, will have continuing opportunities to take part in the programs of that Institute.

The idea of a Department of Peace is also being pursued. Representative Kucinich of Ohio recently introduced a bill in the House of Representatives to authorize such a Department. I believe the time will come when a Secretary of Peace will sit in the President’s cabinet. The Secretary of Peace, as well as the Peace Institute, will keep the

chief executive and all officials continuously reminded of the necessity for building a Culture of Peace to replace the Culture of War which has dominated humanity for so long.

When the Peace Academy Campaign was at its height, I was invited to become a founder of another organization with a vital mission – the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. That Foundation – launched by David Krieger, Wallace Drew, Charles Jamison, and myself in 1982 – initiates and supports worldwide efforts to abolish nuclear weapons, to strengthen international law and institutions, to use technology responsibly, and to empower young people to create a more peaceful world.

The Foundation now has thousands of members. It is a non-profit, non-partisan organization, in constant communication with hundreds of other organizations. It publishes a journal and occasional books and distributes information in many ways. It sponsors and cosponsors meetings, dialogues, and conferences with schools, colleges, universities, and other peace groups. It has consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and is recognized by the UN as a Peace Messenger Organization.

I am grateful to be connected to this inspiring foundation. Its vision is a world full of joyful activities, free from the threats of weapons of mass destruction. We try to foster an atmosphere in which human beings realize how glorious they are, how many gifts they have, how the future may unfold with beauty and unconditional love everywhere. We work daily to make that future possible. We honor people who have demonstrated leadership in advancing peace and justice. We have presented awards to educators, scientists, religious leaders, artists, and others. Among them are Jacques Cousteau, Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa, Theodore Hesburgh of Notre Dame, Mairead Maguire of Ireland, the Dalai Lama of Tibet, Linus Pauling, Elisabeth Mann Borgese, Dr. Helen Caldicott, Carl Sagan, Paul Ehrlich, Yehudi Menuhin, Queen Noor of Jordan, Admiral Gene La Rocque, Senator Claiborne Pell, and many others.

The terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11 in 2001 produced a wave of fear. People from 80 countries died in the wreckage of the World Trade Towers. Everyone now knows that terrorists may strike again at any time, anywhere. There are reported to be terrorist groups in 65 nations. The war in Afghanistan destroyed one such organization, but there are many more. People everywhere are now fully aware of the vulnerability that has to be faced.

WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

Yet that atmosphere of vulnerability has made us realize that we are all connected. We have to deal with the roots of terrorism in cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations. Our Secretary of State, Colin Powell, told participants in a World Economic Forum that the United States and its allies must engage in a campaign against poverty, saying that those tempted by terrorists must be shown that “there is a better way” to correct the injustices existing on our planet. Powell said: “We have to go after poverty. We have to go after despair. We have to go after hopelessness ... We have to put hope back in the hearts of people.”

A great meeting was held in Santa Barbara last November by the Nuclear Age Peace

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Foundation which stirred hope in the hearts of the 500 people who took part in it. Two Peace Leadership Awards were presented at that assembly. One went to Hafsat Abiola, a dauntless advocate for human rights on the African continent, who founded the Kudirat Initiative for Democracy on the African continent. The other was given to Craig Kielburger, founder of the Free the Children organization, who started a movement that led to the liberation of thousands of children from slave labor.

When those two young leaders described what they had done, the people there gave them spontaneous ovations. It was evident that they were Glorious Beings – and they had been sustained by their awareness of the goodness and generosity existing in so many members of the human species. Bursts of admiration and affection flashed through the audience in wave after wave. They had demonstrated how constructive all human beings could become.

There were hundreds of students in that gathering – students from high schools and colleges, students with a wide range of gifts and capabilities, students from many ethnic backgrounds. Their young faces were shining. They were clearly inspired by the young woman from Nigeria and the young man from Canada. And the people there – people of all ages – were radiant with happiness. There was a surge of renewed confidence in humanity’s future.

I thought then of statements made by Brian Swimme, a mathematical scientist, who has expressed his belief in a “cosmic generosity” pouring through the universe. He said that all human beings faced a cosmic challenge “to become generosity in a new form – the human form.”

A tremendous manifestation of generosity occurred after the devastation of the World Trade Towers. People lined up to give blood; the Red Cross was deluged with gifts. People from other cities went to New York to be helpful in any way they could think of. The glorious qualities of humanity were evident there.

In my years on this planet, I have seen one transformation after another. I saw the world recover from the terrible depression on the 1930s. I saw the League of Nations fall and the rise of a new organization, the United Nations. I saw a Europe torn by centuries of national antagonisms evolve into a European Union. I saw totalitarian regimes in Spain, Italy, Germany, Russia, Africa, Asia, and South America give way to governments more responsive to the needs of the people. I saw women attaining their rightful positions in many places. I saw the leaders of many religious organizations working together. I saw the development of a world communications system through the Internet.

A CENTER FOR HUMANITY’S FUTURE

To serve the global community now arising through the efforts of Glorious Beings all over the world, I advocate the creation of a Center for Humanity’s Future. Such a Center could be a place of light and listening, a place of exploration and encouragement for people to become even greater than they are now, a launching pad for ideas from everywhere. It would enable all of us to become more aware of what marvelous capacities we have and stimulate us to become more creative than we have ever been.

In the coming centuries, in which we will face more complex problems than ever before, it will be essential to evoke the godlike qualities inherent in every person. To act with the unconditional love transmitted to us by our Creator, we will take joy forever from a full appreciation of what we really are – embodiments of the cosmos, each of us aware of the strength we can draw from the universe, each of us absolutely original and limitless in our range of growing. As we become what we were intended to be, we will act upon our understanding of the fact that what we think and what we do will have repercussions through the whole future.

That is why the Center should be dedicated to celebration – to foster the release of everyone’s finest thoughts and everyone’s dancing spirit. Celebration means more than a never-ending party, although it does include all aspects of joy, because human beings are at their best when they are joyful, feasting and frolicking.

The Center would spread the light of eternal sunrise over our beautiful earth. It would honor all the wonderful works of compassion going on in many places, sparking many dialogues and loving exchanges, inviting everyone to open up and communicate through many languages through electronic translations, encouraging everyone to feel equally loved and respected, drawing everyone to “welcome the future in good order.”

The Center could have its headquarters in Santa Barbara – in this vibrant community which has hundreds of educational and philanthropic organizations. Its initial sponsors could be the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation and La Casa de Maria, the conference and retreat place where thousands of persons each year experience spiritual growth.

Another organization which could be connected to the Center is the PAX 2100 group, which is working on a road map that could lead to a broad structure for peace in the next hundred years. This group was brought into existence by the late Walter Gray, a visionary business man, and William Allaway, former director of the Education Abroad program of the University of California in Santa Barbara. The Center could also collaborate in projects with the Future Traditions Foundation, which was created in Santa Barbara by Misa Mandigo Kelly, a dancer and choreographer, with other young artists. These artists described their objectives in these terms: “Art is our vehicle. Peace is the destination. We merge traditions of the past with innovations of the present to develop a future of peaceful, compassionate lifestyles.”

The Center could draw upon the results of studies conducted by the Foundation for the Future, established by Walter Kistler and his associates in Bellevue, Washington. That Foundation was formed to sponsor research into the critical factors that might have the most impact on the long-term survivability of humanity. Looking ahead to the Year 3000, it has brought together brilliant thinkers from many fields in a series of seminars and workshops.

The board of advisors to that Foundation includes Brian Fagan of the University of California in Santa Barbara; Robert Muller, former Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations; and Barbara Marx Hubbard, leader of the Foundation for Conscious Evolution, also based in Santa Barbara. These distinguished persons would certainly be invited to participate in dialogues at the Center.

I mention these organizations and these gifted people because they are among the

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many elements that support my faith in humanity's future. There are many persons here tonight who are leaders in many fields. I look forward to the dialogues we will have in the coming years – dialogues that will give us greater understanding of how we are linked together in a growing community on this marvelous planet.

Tonight I have taken you with me through the long journey of my life. That journey has kept a feeling of hope alive in me, even in times of deep pain. I have heard the cries of the wounded and I have seen men dying in agony near me in the second World War. I have been tempted to fall into despair, but despair leads nowhere. I believe that Einstein was right when he acknowledged his awareness of the “spirit manifest in the laws of the universe” – a spirit filled with cosmic generosity, a spirit that never dies.

In my office I have a luminous painting by John August Swanson entitled, “Festival of Lights.” It shows two wide streams of human beings descending the slopes of green mountains, carrying candles that illuminate their faces. Above the dark mountains are cascades of stars – stars extending through endless distances. It is evidence that the stars and mountains and the people with their candles are all connected. The Spirit is in them all.

A GLOBAL CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY

When I look at that painting, I am stirred again to advocate an Annual Report on the State of Humanity, to be presented with a global Celebration of Creativity. Artists of all kinds – painters, singers, dancers, poets, musicians, mystics, healers, prophets, sculptors, architects, philosophers, mediators, meditators – could lead community celebrations which would be linked together around the world. All human beings are artists. That Celebration would recognize the creativity of everyone. It could be videotaped and used on television and the Internet to bring delight into the lives of people everywhere.

That celebration could make us aware that we have come into existence to be Celebrants, to explore the wonders of all the worlds, to travel through many universes, to dance to the stars – and beyond the stars.

In the future, I see a World Parliament in which every human being will be represented by a process of free elections. That Parliament will base its decisions on the ethical principles developed by the Earth Charter Commission. It will foster a Culture of Peace in which war will be unthinkable. It will promote an increasing awareness of the spiritual dimensions of human beings.

We are glorious beings, but we will become more glorious as we unite ourselves with the flood of creativity pouring through the universes around us. We will grow UP forever – UP and UP, higher and higher. The poet William Blake said: “That one who kisses joy as it flies lives in eternity's sunrise.” We will celebrate each moment and celebrate each other and all the forms of life – the other animals, the trees, the flowers, the ants, the butterflies, and every living being – and so we will live in a never-ending sunrise.

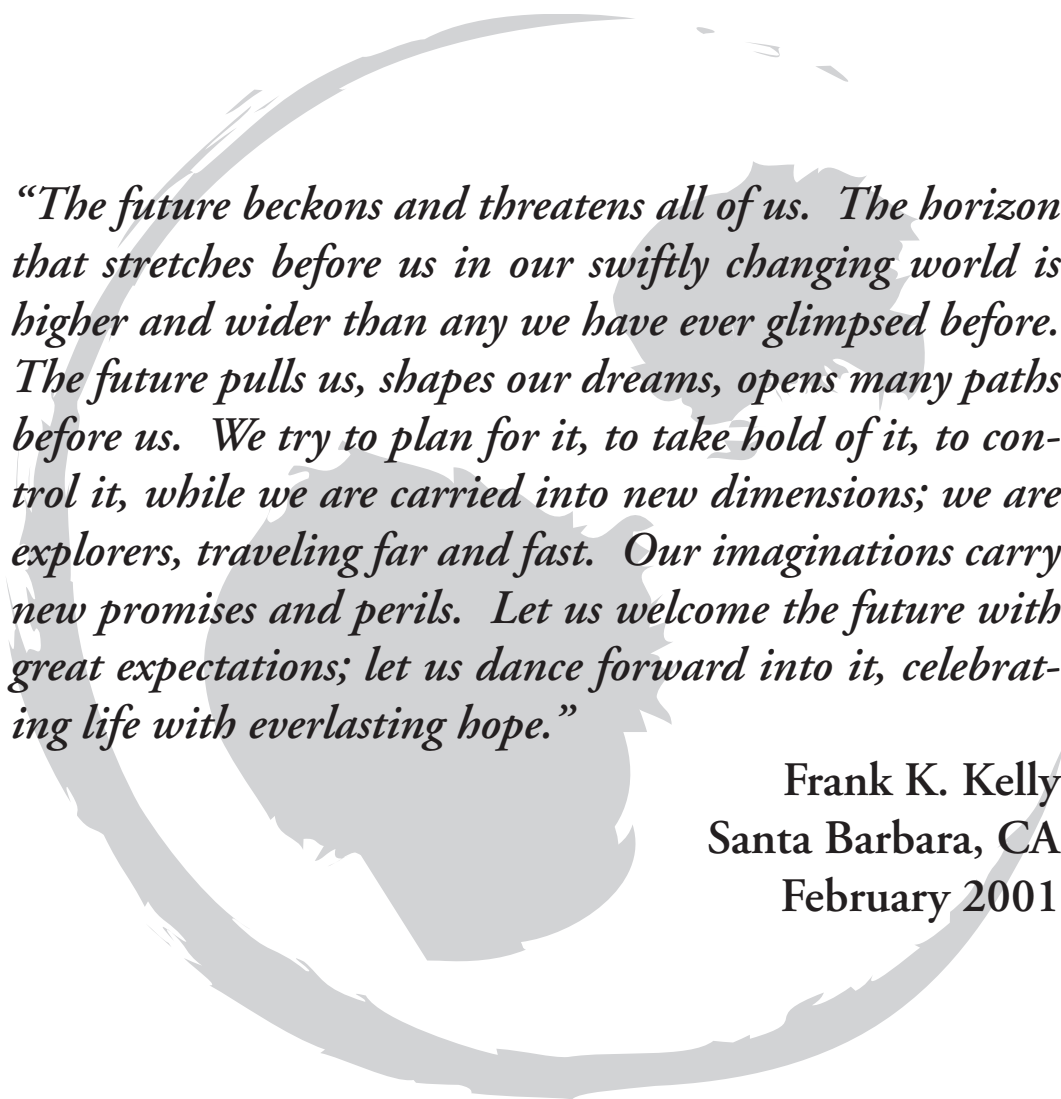


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In order to ensure the continuity of the Frank K. Kelly Annual Lecture on Humanity's Future in subsequent years, the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation has set up a permanent endowment fund to support expenses associated with the Lecture. The Frank K. Kelly Annual Lecture Fund will allow the Foundation to invite a distinguished individual to present the lecture each year and to disseminate its publication broadly.

The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation would like to thank the following individuals who have thus far contributed to the Frank K. Kelly Annual Lecture Fund in support of Frank's vision of a hopeful future. If you are interested in receiving information about helping to sustain the Frank K. Kelly Annual Lecture on Humanity's Future through an endowment gift, please contact the Foundation at (805) 965-3443.

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“The future beckons and threatens all of us. The horizon that stretches before us in our swiftly changing world is higher and wider than any we have ever glimpsed before. The future pulls us, shapes our dreams, opens many paths before us. We try to plan for it, to take hold of it, to control it, while we are carried into new dimensions; we are explorers, traveling far and fast. Our imaginations carry new promises and perils. Let us welcome the future with great expectations; let us dance forward into it, celebrating life with everlasting hope.”

Frank K. Kelly
Santa Barbara, CA
February 2001

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