

The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 16 January 2008

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One World, One Flag

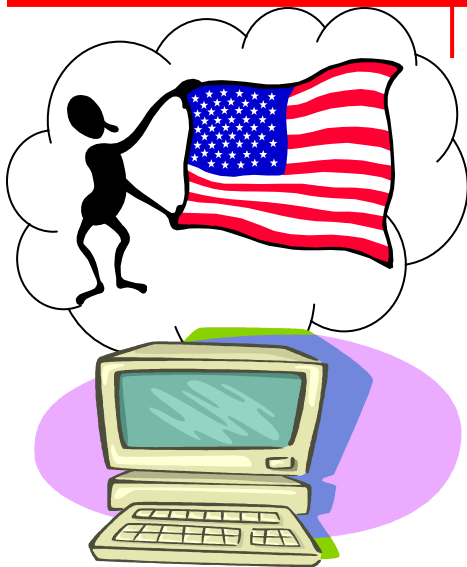
By Paul Carroll

This text has been severely edited for space from the original article that was submitted to NAVA News. The fault of any errors or omissions lie with the editor and not the author.—The editor.

While recuperating from a near fatal accident in 1988, I made the decision to create a symbol of world unity and cooperation that would be universally understandable. Ultimately, this inspiration produced The World Flag, a flag that has flown around the world from the former World Trade Center in New York City to Nepal and continues today to find new

The World Flag.

In order to devise a global symbol that would resonate with the people of the world, I chose flags as the system for this original design. Because of their symbolic, nationalistic, and subconscious power, individual flags offered inherent possibilities for this vision. Moving individual flags into the global realm transcending borders, race, and religions creates a unique impact. The power of symbols to both inspire and unite people finds its most relevant and meaningful application in the national flags and banners of the world.



While rehabilitating from my accident, I began the arduous task of assimilating and arranging the flags of the world. Working on the floor with a set of 4” X 6” UN flags, days were spent configuring and reconfiguring different designs for the original World Flag. The options and combinations were virtually unlimited. The ultimate goal was to create a flag with underlying symbolism and design innuendo that could not only be globally interpreted, but also be pro-

You can't appreciate home till you've left it, money till it's spent, your wife until she's joined a women's club, nor Old Glory till you see it hanging on a broomstick on a shanty of a consul in a foreign town.

—O. Henry

places to fly. The World Flag Project was initiated to promote multi-cultural understanding with a focus on geography and common world issues through the global exposure of

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If you wish to compliment the editor, or to contribute in the future, contact John Hood at 503-238-7666 or vivijohn@comcast.net. If you wish to complain, call your mother.

One World, One Flag

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duced and manufactured—the first World Flag that would fly around the globe.

Other design considerations were obvious. The unique challenge of using 160 flags and assembling a meaningful, engaging image was daunting in itself. The mission was well beyond a piece of art or a one-time experiment. I set out to create a global symbol that would change and evolve as the world changed and evolved. The World Flag would grow organically creating historical documents in time.

The original Flag created in 1988 represented the 159 members of the U.N., plus the United Nations flag itself. Buckminster Fuller's sky-ocean map became the core from which the design would grow. With an awareness of history, philosophy, and geopolitics, the first World Flag was born. Major global concerns—The Cold War, apartheid, the Middle East, and other political and social issues—all had an impact.

Flying The World Flag would prove to be more difficult than creating the vibrant global symbol. At the time, the Flag world and its manufacturing capabilities were not up to the task. Creating a “real flag” proved to be impossible, not to mention cost prohibitive. After spending much time and countless hours with local, national, and Canadian firms, I realized the need to look outside the flag industry and turned to the fashion and billboard trade. The original flag (silk

on canvas) was incredibly labor intensive and, in essence, pieces of original art not meant to fly.

Through the auspices of the Society of Prayer for World Peace, The World Flag was publicly unveiled in December 1989 at the United Nations Prayer for World Peace event. This led to my appointment by the Governor of New Jersey as Hoboken's United Nation's Representative.

After attending the UN event with me, Don ‘Poz’ Pozarycki decided to join in the efforts to bring The World Flag to the people. Poz became the first investor, creating a partnership between me, my brother John, and himself. John and Poz took to the road promoting the project at various venues, building a freestanding structure to hang a 13'x18' World Flag to display at each event, and were able to share the vision with thousands of people around the United States.

The next evolution of The World Flag's design took place in 1992. With the Cold War ending, South Africa's apartheid being abolished, and the continuing trends toward a more connected global economy, it became evident that the new design

should encompass the entire world, beyond the initial symbolism of just the United Nations. This brought the next incarnation of the image to some 216 flags. I also changed the depiction of the Earth to a more recognizable view from space. A major public unveiling of this flag was at the Alliance for Environmental Education conference in Washington, DC. It was shortly after this event that we decided to take a hiatus until such time as real flags could be manufactured.

The year 2006 marked the rebirth of The World Flag Project. The initial founders found ourselves all living in Portland, Oregon. It was John Carroll's undying belief and commitment to The World Flag that inspired the founders' reunion. With the new design finalized, he began to research the possibilities of finally creating a real flag. Working closely with the people of Annin & Co. and using the latest digital printing process, real flags were finally produced on February 27, 2007. Technology had finally caught up with the vision.

The Projects' mission now is to see The World Flag fly in every country around the world. The World Flag Project is taking a proactive ap-



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proach to expose people to the Flag and its message. The Project is offering people from all walks of life: educators, backpackers, scientists, and all concerned citizens--especially children of the world--an opportunity to act as ambassadors in delivering the flag to classrooms, hostels, national parks, organizations, cities, businesses and homes. This year alone, the flag has made it to elementary schools in Washington, DC; Kelly, WY; Portland, OR; Pixvaie, Panama and Caye Caulker, Belize.

The process is underway for updating The World Flag's design for 2008, and to continue the redesign on a yearly basis. The World Flag Project looks forward to the first annual World Flag Day scheduled for October 2, 2008. For more information contact: Paul@theworldflag.org or <http://www.theworldflag.org>

With The World Flag, we celebrate our cultural diversity while inspiring unity in all matters of global concern. Our vision is that children around the world will grow up sharing a

common symbol of hope uniting them all. Our Motto is "Teaching Unity--Sharing Diversity." One World, One Flag.

Symbolism and Design Innuendo

In the center is the Earth with a white background symbolizing peace and purity while the green represents nature. The white of Japan draws the eye downward creating the image of a flagpole. This then becomes a flag within The Flag and also symbolizes a P for peace. The fulcrum of Saint Lucia, whose triangle reaches toward the sky, symbolizes the fragile environmental balance of the Earth and Nations. Japan (left) is one of the wealthier nations and Bangladesh one of the poorest. The United Nations in the center symbolizes unity.

Just above earth's center, the three sun signs within the flags of Argentina, Antigua & Barbuda, and Uruguay (left to right), are meant to symbolize the rays of light and hope shining into the flag of Tibet, above. These four flags together collectively represent the life giving power of the sun both lighting the Earth and shining upward into the flag of Afghanistan, flanked on the left by Lesotho and on the right by Kenya. Within the flags of Lesotho and Kenya are symbols of hope, peace and freedom challenging the internal conflicts faced by Afghanistan today. The underlying in-

nuendo here exists within the tribal history of these nations.

Although not encompassing all the world's religions, the next three flags above Vatican City, Saudi Arabia, and Israel (left to right) are a symbolic challenge to transcend the politics of religion and find a common spiritual ground. Above these the olive branches of Cyprus symbolize peace and hope. At the top the tree of Norfolk Island's roots reach into the white of Cyprus representing peace as the soil from which new life may grow.

Above the US flag is Ireland and below is Italy, representing the designer's multicultural Heritage. Left of the U.S. is China, symbolizing the opposing tensions of economic and military power in the world.

United States and Russia are at opposite ends of the earth center, symbolizing the challenge of opposing powers whose collective actions can have a major impact on the planet as a whole.

Right of Russia is Swaziland, whose blue band represents peace and stability representing Russia's movement toward freedom and democracy. Below Russia is Barbados whose trident is used here to symbolize Russia's emergence from the depths of communism toward a more democratic system of government.

Above Russia is Nicaragua whose blue and white pattern works visually to tie in with the blue and white of Russia.

The four corners of the earth are represented by Sweden on the top left, Nepal on the top right, Tuvalu the bottom left, and Malaysia on the bottom right. Each country is in a relative opposite location of the planet.



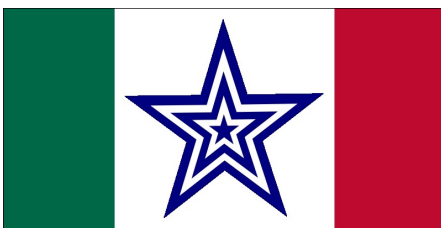
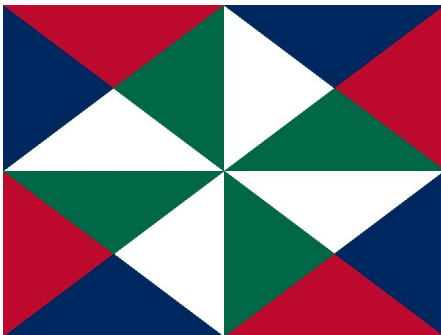
January 2008 Flutterings You Need to Know

Some of our regulars couldn't make the meeting, but a couple of new people joined us for a very interesting time. John and Paul Carroll told us the history of The Word Flag (see article on page 1) and the plans that they have. They also brought a mystery flag that they wanted help identifying.



It was a Grand Army of the Republic Flag, probably from the 1920's. A replica of the flags of the Civil War (38 stars), with the GAR badge in the canton and obviously very well worn. A great memento from a time gone by.

Scott was not here but he emailed some designs as a response to the North American Union Flag of last meeting. Here are two of his thoughts:



Scott also wondered how we could increase our membership. It was suggested that Mike could put a sign on the counter or next to the "Guess This

Flag" at his store. Since Mike wasn't there, we'll discuss this later.

Ted brought his collection of FIAV table flags from England, Sweden, Argentina and Germany. The Argentine flag even has a working halyard. He also had a few flag books, among them, *For Which It Stands*, by Michael Corcoran. As the sub-title says, this is "An anecdotal History of the American Flag" in which the author debunks myths, explains peculiarities and recounts the history of the flag. Included are interviews with "...the colorful and knowledgeable Whitney Smith."

Michael Orelove and John Schilke found that they were both members of the North American Sun Dial Society. In fact, John is the Vice-president—how esoteric can one group be? Michael thought it would be interesting to see the stars in the canton of the US Flag replaced with the state flags. Ted suggested that since so many of the state flags were labels-on-bed sheets, they might still look like stars from a distance. The editor has played with that idea and will show the results at the next meeting. Fascinating idea!

Fred is working on a universal flag for religions, at least for the primary ones who seem to be fighting each other a lot. More will be revealed next meeting.

John had a few new flags which seem to have a common theme with The World Flag.



Human Being Flag

From the web site <http://www.Humanbeingflag.com> in part: "The flag has the four Human Being colors—white, yellow, red and black. The triangle in each color represents our connections with the other Human Beings—all pointing to the center, The Circle of Life."



Universal Flag

Part of their Mission Statement from the web site <http://www.universalfalg.com> : "The Universal Flag was created through you, as a symbol of our interconnection and oneness. It is our intention that whenever the flag or symbol is viewed, it will serve as a reminder of our Oneness with All."

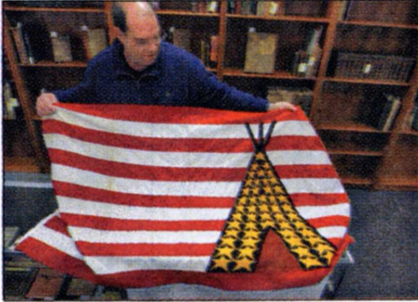


Unity Flag

From the web site <http://www.worldunityflag.org> : "The World Unity Flag project is offered to serve as a symbol and activity to encourage reconciliation, co-operation and mutual support, promoting solutions, strategies, tools, techniques and technologies to meet humanity's common needs in Balance with Natural Laws."

Flags in the News

My son in San Francisco sent me an article from the Chronicle about a flag designed by Lulie Nall, a Penobscot Indian, in the late 1960's. She



LACY ATKINS / The Chronicle

Bruce MacMakin of PBA Galleries unfolds Old Glory's Helper, valued at up to \$150,000.

called it *Old Glory's Helper* and said the symbolism was: "Red for the American Indian who shares his teepee with fifty state governments. Yellow, black and brown people are represented in the fields they help toil...The gap in the teepee represents the last gap of discrimination." There are pictures of it flying over Alcatraz during the 19-month American Indian occupation of the island ending in 1971. Nall was never able to generate interest in her flag and it has sat in storage until a distant relative has decided to have it sold at auction to help with his medical expenses. The auction house may have valued the flag at up to \$150,000; in reality it sold for \$60,000 to a 1960's memorabilia collector in Texas.

Here is another clipping my son sent, about the new Iraqi Flag. While our paper had the story, it didn't have the picture. There has been much contention over the flag tied so closely to Saddam Hussein's Baath Party. The Kurds, who have their own regional flag, have agreed to respect

this new flag and fly it at the pan-Arab meeting in March. It is only a temporary, one-year stopgap until a more permanent design is selected.



The new red, white and black Iraqi flag, top, features a classic Arabic font. An earlier flag had three green stars and scrawl of Saddam Hussein, bottom.

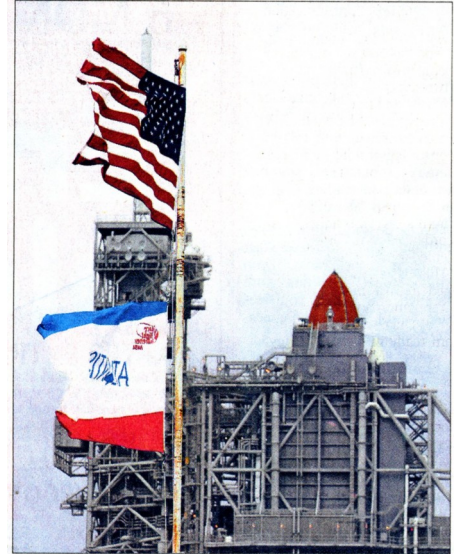
These green flags seem to be alternate flags for Hamas. The emblem for Hamas is far different with its Dome of the Rock and Palestinian Flags. There is another flag, green with the shahada in white, but it does not have other script around it. Can anyone explain this one?



KHALIL HAMRA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egyptian security personnel use a water cannon to disperse Hamas supporters during a demonstration Tuesday at the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip.

In this picture the space shuttle Atlantis was about to be launched and the shuttle's flag was proudly flying. I didn't know this, but each shuttle has its own flag to be flown while it is on the launch pad. Within the name on the flag is a silhouette of the shuttle.



JOHN RAOUX/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Space shuttle Atlantis sits on pad 39a at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., during a teleconference Thursday in Houston to discuss whether Atlantis is ready for a trip to the international space station. Failures of shuttle fuel gauges forced back-to-back launch delays in December.

What Was that Flag? Answers to last quiz

These are some unusual religious flags. Who has seen them flying in the area?



Jain

Jainism has been in India for centuries BCE. The characteristics of Jain belief is the emphasis on the immediate consequences of one's behavior. The swastika has existed as a symbol in India for millennia. <http://www.jainworld.com>



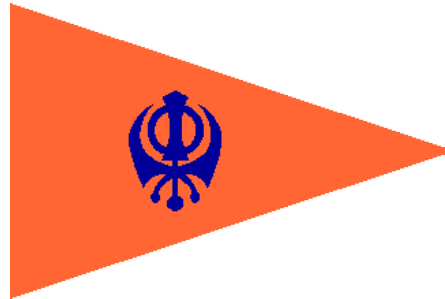
Mormon

This flag is trademarked although it was a product of the 19th century. The central star represents the kingdom of God on earth with the gathering of the twelve tribes of Israel. The 12 stripes are the 12 tribes of Israel and/or the 12 apostles. <http://www.thechurchflag.com>.



Prometheism

A religion based on conscious evolution, Prometheism was founded by Dr. Matt Nuenke in 2000 who based it on fact, science, reason, objectivism, spirituality and empiricism. <http://www.prometheism.net>



Sikh

An unusual pennant-shaped flag, the nishan sahib has the Khanda, the symbol of the Sikhs, on it. The Khanda is a combination of the double-edged sword (cleaving Truth from Falsehood), the Chakar (a circle without beginning or end), and the two curved swords symbolizing Temporal and Spiritual authority. <http://www.sikhs.org>



Wiccan

According to our friend Lady Madelena Dragonaria, a Wiccan High Priestess, there doesn't seem to be an official flag for that religion; however, the pentacle is the symbol and this is a flag with that representation. The points are Spirit, Water, Fire, Earth and Air. <http://www.wiccanweb.ca>

What's that Flag?

Here are some of the less common Scandinavian Crosses from my flag collection:

