A Peace of My Mind
Exploring the Meaning of Peace
One Story at a Time
QUOTES ABOUT A PEACE OF MY MIND

“A Peace of My Mind gives wings to our own voice as peacebuilders by welcoming us into a diverse community of people passionate about peace. As presented at New York University Kimmel Gallery by Pasos Peace Museum, it touched the soul and enlivened the spirit of the thousands that came to learn and be connected to that community. Those lucky enough to have heard John Noltner speak at the opening of this month-long event left with an indelible imprint of the embodiment of a true peacebuilder.”

WILLIAM REPICCI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PASOS PEACE MUSEUM, NEW YORK, NY

“The UW-Eau Claire Foundation was pleased and proud to bring A Peace of My Mind to our campus. John worked with our students on how to conduct interviews and record the subjects photographically. This “high impact” learning for our students personalized the experience and more importantly gave the university a future focus — to continue to expand the UW-Eau Claire Peace project as a perpetual reminder of John’s groundbreaking work.”

KIMERA WAY, PRESIDENT, UW-EAU CLAIRE FOUNDATION, EAU CLAIRE, WI

“This project is a work of art and a great source of hope, an exquisite collection of soulful photographs and personal stories of peacebuilding. It is a beautiful and inspiring prompt for conversation about how to make the world a more peaceful place.”

RABBI AMY EILBERG, UNITED THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, NEW BRIGHTON, MN

“We were honored to host A Peace of My Mind. During the two months that we housed the installation there was a notable shift in the way students, families, and guests interacted with the environment. We observed people stopping, looking closely at the faces of participants, and reading their stories. Our community was genuinely impacted by the range of peace stories, and each of our students & teachers found at least one that resonated deeply with their own experience of conflict transformation. The experience was so powerful for our community that we embedded the installation within our Global Peace Course and as a resource for several other courses.”

ERIC DAVIS, FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR, GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EXPERIENCE, CHICAGO, IL

“Hosting the exhibit for A Peace of My Mind was a profound experience for our congregation. The exhibit provided an opportunity for us to engage the values of peace, diversity, and tolerance on a deeper and more personal level, both within our congregation and with the surrounding community. We were challenged, inspired, and shaped by the stories and faces of these strangers who, over the course of the six weeks of the exhibit, came to feel like friends. Our experience with the exhibit led us to hold a week long Peace Camp the following summer. Children from the surrounding community came together to learn non-violent conflict resolution skills, multicultural appreciation, and inner peace. Our experience with A Peace of My Mind has motivated us to engage in more intentional peacemaking.”

PASTOR JENNI ENGLISH, BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, CHICAGO, IL.
WHAT DOES PEACE MEAN TO YOU?

That’s the central question photographer and storyteller John Noltner has been asking people for his social commentary project, A Peace of My Mind.

Founded in 2009, A Peace of My Mind is a multimedia art project that fosters public dialogue about issues related to conflict resolution, civic responsibility, and peace. With engaging portraits and compelling personal stories, nearly 100 diverse subjects describe what peace means to them, how they work toward it in their lives, and some of the obstacles they encounter along the way.

Those profiled include Holocaust survivors and a homeless man, a Somali refugee and a military chaplain, a pottery instructor and an oil company executive. Artists, volunteers, politicians, and business leaders all share their thoughts and inspiring stories in a series that celebrates our common experience and sense of community.

A Peace of My Mind expanded into the public forum in 2010 with the production of a traveling exhibit, funded through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. Since then, more than 80,000 people have viewed the exhibit at schools, private galleries, community centers, places of worship, libraries, and universities across the country.

In 2011, A Peace of My Mind won support from 92 backers through a Kickstarter campaign to produce a book from the series with a foreword written by Mahatma Gandhi’s granddaughter, Ela Gandhi. The book earned first place in the Midwest Book Awards, and won a silver IPPY from the Independent Publishers Association.

A Peace of My Mind continues to develop programming to engage viewers with the art. Through keynote presentations, small group discussions, and in-depth workshops, A Peace of My Mind helps civic and student groups understand the ways we categorize one another and how we can bridge our differences and build community through sharing our stories.

Using this model, A Peace of My Mind has been presented at the Peace and Justice Studies Association National Conference, the Nobel Peace Prize Forum, and the Dayton International Peace Museum. The project has been honored in 2013 with EDIT’s Art for Change award, Jovial Concept’s Peace Initiative, and a Jefferson Award for Youth Service.

“...In a world that often asks us to focus on the things that can separate us... politics, ethnicity, and religion... A Peace of My Mind encourages us to explore the common humanity that connects us.”

—FOUNDER JOHN NOLTNER
AMERICAN STORIES

The 52 stories gathered in the first book and the exhibits have a broad world view because of who the subjects are, though it was produced almost entirely in Minnesota, in the artist’s own back yard. The variety of experiences found within this small geographic footprint is symbolic of how diverse our country has become.

Five years after its founding, the project exhibits locally and nationally. Programming engages new communities in the conversation. And the work has just begun.

*A Peace of My Mind* is an ongoing effort, developing fertile ground for transformative conversations, engaging new populations in dialogue about issues related to peace and living well together.

Work has begun on a new series of portraits and oral histories on the national level. Beginning in 2013, additional stories have been gathered from across our country for a second book, *A Peace of My Mind, American Stories*.

As our country continues to struggle with polarization, *A Peace of My Mind* opens unifying conversations about peace at schools, community centers, and places of faith. Art has proven a strong medium for transformation that not only informs, but also inspires people from diverse backgrounds to accept personal responsibility for making positive change in the world.

The current momentum of *A Peace of My Mind* provides a strong foundation for launching this national initiative that invites increasingly diverse subjects into the conversation, reaches larger numbers of viewers, and engages those viewers in a dialogue that explores our shared humanity.

A national perspective will also expand the framework for conversation. To gain a deeper understanding of peace, we cannot listen exclusively to our own voices. To more accurately discuss the human condition, *A Peace of My Mind* requires an ever-expanding reach. By continuing to engage national subjects and build a national audience, we will truly invite the “other” into the conversation and encounter a broader notion of our human story.

Content development is underway and will continue through the end of 2014. To date, more than 40 new stories have been gathered through 25,000 miles on the road. New stories are being released online and through social media throughout development, and tentative plans are for release of *A Peace of My Mind, American Stories* as a book and a traveling exhibit on the International Day of Peace (September 21) 2015.

*“The photos are powerful in and of themselves, but the stories are what brought peace to my heart.”*  
—FROM THE EXHIBIT GUEST BOOK
“This is a beautifully inspiring piece of work. It speaks to how we each have a story, a context from which we experience the world. By listening to, acknowledging, or even being aware of these stories... we can take one step closer to a collective peace. I feel peace after experiencing this exhibit... thank you.”

—FROM THE EXHIBIT GUEST BOOK

BIOGRAPHY

With images and words, John Noltner has been telling stories for twenty years for national magazines, Fortune 500 companies, and non-profit organizations. His work has appeared in *National Geographic Traveler, Forbes, Midwest Living,* and the *New York Daily News*, among other publications.

Throughout his career, Noltner has managed logistics for editorial and commercial clients nationally and internationally. He has worked on three continents. Noltner carefully arranges details and builds relationships, using humor, understanding, and compassion to craft compelling and insightful stories.

After twenty years as an award-winning still photographer, Noltner has begun working in film, first developing multi-media pieces for non-profits, and recently producing short videos for clients and documentary projects. Film is a medium that combines the writing, production and visual skills learned over a two-decade career into a powerful story-telling vehicle.

Over the past decade, Noltner has dedicated an increasing amount of time to in-depth social commentary, combining portraiture, oral histories, and most recently video, to examine our society and how we relate to one another.

In 2011, Noltner partnered with the Islamic Resource Group to design and develop a project called Muslim Experience in Minnesota, an oral history and photographic project designed to document a cross section of the diverse Muslim community in Minnesota, funded by a Legacy grant from the Minnesota Historical Society.

*A Peace of My Mind* is Noltner’s flagship effort, allowing him to use his storytelling as a medium for bridging social, political, and cultural differences. *A Peace of My Mind* represents Noltner’s belief that art and storytelling have the power to transform our hearts as well as our communities.

Noltner is an active local advocate for peace and justice. He is a member of the Peace and Justice Studies Association and the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers. Noltner served on the board for Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry from 2005 to 2008 to support education, medical, and economic services in developing nations. He was also a founding board member of Peace House Africa from 1999 to 2002. In this position, he assisted in planning and establishing a boarding school for orphans of the AIDS epidemic in Tanzania.
WWW.APEACEOFMYMIND.NET

Apeaceofmind.net is a virtual forum where you will find stories, inspiration, and community, built around the exploration of the meaning of peace.

It seems we all like the idea of peace. We like to buy the t-shirt and wear the earrings, but when it comes down to the way we work toward peace in our lives... the way we treat others and relate to the world around us... often we’re not very good at it. We all need a little help moving in the right direction, and apeaceofmind.net is a positive place to explore these ideas.

From the website’s home page you can access all of A Peace of My Mind’s social network feeds, background information on the project, upcoming exhibits and events as well as contact information. A blog regularly updates followers on developments with the project, guest columns, and behind-the-scenes stories of how A Peace of My Mind continues to grow.

The core content of the website is a collection of podcasts. You will find stories from more than 50 diverse subjects who share in their own words what peace means to them, how they work toward it in their lives, and some of the obstacles they encounter along the way. They talk about spiritual peace, political peace and inner peace. They share stories of struggle, redemption, and persistence.

While apeaceofmind.net won’t give you all the answers, it offers a rich and fertile forum to encourage conversation, and ask yourself the same question. What does peace mean to you?

“Seeing these faces and reading these powerful words give me hope and strengthen my conviction that we can move into a more peaceful and just world.”
—FROM THE EXHIBIT GUEST BOOK
THE BOOK

“John Noltner takes us on a unique journey filled with revelations of courage and commitment, resilience and hope. It is a beautiful journey that speaks to our innermost being. It touches us in a way that allows us to see the world from a different perspective. Perhaps it will inspire us to become peacemakers.”

—ELA GHANDI (FROM THE BOOK’S FOREWORD)

The stories in this 120-page soft-cover book are drawn from the podcast interviews for A Peace of My Mind. Each person in the collection is showcased with a beautifully reproduced, full-page black and white portrait. On the facing page, a brief biography and a 250-word passage from their interview reveals the thoughts and insights of each individual. The book is integrated with online content so that if a story intrigues a reader, they can go to the original podcast on apeaceofmymind.net to hear a more in depth conversation with each subject.

Ela Gandhi, granddaughter of Mohatma Gandhi and active in resisting South Africa’s Apartheid, wrote the foreword for the book. An artist statement by photographer, author, and project founder John Noltner is included as well.

A Peace of My Mind is in its second printing. In 2012 the book was awarded first place in the Midwest Book Awards, and a silver IPPY from the Independent Publishers Association.

Well-suited for book clubs and classrooms, A Peace of My Mind includes a series of simple discussion questions in the back of the book designed to foster dialogue among small groups. Many of the questions included are the same ones used to conduct the interviews presented in the book.

A resource guide is also incorporated into the final pages of the book, giving readers access to many local and national organizations that work, in diverse ways, toward greater peace in the world.

A book study guide for weekend retreats or in-depth study is available upon request.

Single copies of the book are available at Amazon.com. Discounts for multiple copies and wholesale orders for retail sales can be arranged directly with the author at the contact information listed below.
“John Lennon said, “All we are saying, is give peace a chance.” This exhibit does just that. Gives the concept of peace a tangible, emotional, intellectual, inspirational chance. Thank you for that.”
— FROM THE EXHIBIT GUEST BOOK

EXHIBIT & PROGRAMMING

VENUES TO DATE (a partial list)

New York University, New York, NY
University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire, WI
Carleton College, Northfield MN
Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter MN
Central College, Pella IA
Bucknell University, Lewisburg PA
Zeitgeist Arts, Duluth MN
Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago IL
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL
Global Citizenship Experience, Chicago, IL
Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality, Saint Paul, MN
Eagan Public School District, Eagan, MN
Bloomington Public School District, Bloomington, MN
Saint Cloud Public Library, Saint Cloud, MN
Otter Tail County Historical Society, Fergus Falls, MN
Fergus Falls School District, Fergus Falls, MN
Midtown Global Market, Minneapolis, MN
Seipfel Center for the Arts, Beaver Dam, WI
Grassroots Art Center, Lucas KS
Dayton International Peace Museum, Dayton OH
Peace and Justice Studies Association, Memphis, TN
Nobel Peace Prize Forum, Minneapolis MN
Laman Public Library, North Little Rock, AR
United World College, Montezuma, NM
Arlington Street Church, Boston, MA
Carolina Friends School, Durham, NC
Unitarian Universalist Church, Kent, OH
Viterbo University, La Crosse, WI
FAIR School, Crystal, MN
Shakopee High School, Shakopee, MN
The William Breman Jewish Heritage and Holocaust Museum, Atlanta, GA
Wesley Chapel, Boulder, CO

EXHIBITS

A Peace of My Mind offers two traveling exhibits that can be used as the centerpiece for public programming in schools, civic organizations and faith communities. The content of each exhibit is drawn from the stories found in the project’s first book. Each subject is featured with a large black and white portrait, a brief biography, and a passage from their interview.

Gallery Exhibit

The original exhibit is designed as a formal gallery exhibit, consisting of 52 canvas gallery wraps, each 24” wide and 36” high. This gallery exhibit ships by commercial carrier to any destination, arrives in four custom crates and is installed by the venue according to simple enclosed instructions. The gallery exhibit typically leases for 4-week displays and requires 120 - 150 feet of available wall space.

Portable Display Banners

New in 2014, A Peace of My Mind now offers a second exhibit, produced as portable display banners. Featuring the same content as the book and the gallery exhibit, the portable display banners are free-standing, easy to set up, and can quickly transform any space for presentations and workshops. Each of the 52 banners is 34” wide and 78” high. The format is flexible and the pieces can be displayed in a space from 1,000 – 5,000 square feet, depending on layout.

The display banner exhibit is typically delivered and installed by the artist and is designed for intensive 1-day to 1-week workshops and presentations. The portable display banners also feature QR codes on each panel that can be scanned with a smart phone, linking viewers directly to each subject’s online podcast.

Programming with the exhibits can vary from a 1-hour keynote presentation to a week-long artist-in-residency, working with audiences to engage with the artwork, foster dialogue, and gather stories from their own communities.

Details on pricing and scheduling are available by contacting the artist directly.
“Thank you for taking the time to delve deeper into the lives of strangers so that their lives can impact ours. It reaffirms my faith in humanity and shows that no one is alone in this world. Peace and the longing for it connects generations, people, and cultures in a bond that could truly heal our planet.”

—FROM THE EXHIBIT GUEST BOOK

WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTATIONS

A Peace of My Mind has developed workshops and presentations to engage your community with the artwork. Whether you are interested in a 1-hour keynote presentation or an extended artist residency, programming can be developed to fit your specific needs. Some examples of past programming are listed below.

Keynote
A 20-60 minute multi-media keynote presentation can be tailored to the specific needs of your group. The keynote addresses the inspiration and development of A Peace of My Mind as well as some of the lessons drawn from nearly 100 interviews conducted to date. The keynote address can be supplemented with audience participation and readings, live music drawn from your community or provided, and a question and answer period at the end.

Guided dialogue and panel discussions
John Noltner is trained in dialogue facilitation through the Project on Civic Reflection and can lead panel discussions on a range of topics. Panel members can be drawn from your own community or brought in from outside based on your group’s needs and interests. Panel topics may include the following, or a subject of your choice:

- Interfaith dialogue
- The history of nonviolent movements
- Using art as a vehicle for social change
- The economics of peace vs. war
- Civic responsibility
- Civil dialogue for difficult subjects
- Engaging your community for positive change
- The transformative power of stories
- Restorative Justice
- Service
- Finding good in our adversaries
- Finding peace in the midst of turmoil

Writing workshops
Writing workshops with accompanying dialogue can be a powerful method for groups to explore their own thoughts about peace. From one-hour “flash writing” exercises to in-depth, full-day workshops, writing can help explore and clarify ideas that have not been fully articulated in the past. Accompanied by guided dialogue, these workshops can unlock new understanding for individuals and among groups.

Artist residencies
Multi-day residencies allow communities to engage with the artist in a variety of settings, from structured classroom visits to informal gatherings and receptions. The interdisciplinary nature of the project allows for meaningful engagement with students in art, philosophy, history, civics, sociology, religious studies, and other disciplines.

Facilitated story gathering
Communities can engage deeply with A Peace of My Mind by using the project as a model for their own explorations. Several venues have gathered stories from their own circles to create parallel projects. Through mentoring and training exercises, groups will become familiar with interviewing and editing techniques and be guided through the process of creating their own oral history project. The experience is a powerful lesson in listening and storytelling. Culminating in a public performance / reading, these workshops hold the potential to build understanding and compassion in your community.
JOHN NOLTNER’S RÉSUMÉ

EDUCATION
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN JOURNALISM, concentration in photography, May 1990
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

EXHIBITIONS

A PEACE OF MY MIND
A multimedia solo project that fosters public dialogue on issues related to conflict resolution, civic responsibility, and peace
New York University, New York, New York (February 2013)
Central College, Pella, Iowa (November 2012)
Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania (September 2012)
Zeitgeist Arts, Duluth, Minnesota (July 2012)
Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, Illinois (October 2011)
Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality, Saint Paul, Minnesota (July 2011)
Saint Cloud Public Library, Saint Cloud, Minnesota (March 2011)
Midtown Global Market, Minneapolis, Minnesota (September 2010)

INDIA: THROUGH FOREIGN EYES
A documentary solo exhibit exploring the streets of India for a first time visitor
Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, Minnesota (October 2008)
Thrivent Atrium Gallery, Minneapolis, Minnesota (June 2008)

COMMON GROUND: THE VISION OF FOUR PHOTOGRAPHERS
A group exhibit produced to highlight the photographic careers of four UW-Eau Claire graduates
Foster Gallery, UW-Eau Claire, Eau Claire, Wisconsin (October 2006)

IN THE PATH OF STEEL
A documentary solo exhibit following the path of steel production from the taconite mines in northern Minnesota to the steel mills of Detroit
Icebox Gallery, Minneapolis, Minnesota (September 1999)
Iron World, Chisholm, Minnesota (July 1999)

PERMANENT COLLECTIONS
University of Minnesota
Minnesota Historical Society
Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry
United Way of Minneapolis

MN State Capital Attorney General’s Office
Carleton College
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
Luther Seminary

PUBLICATIONS, Partial Listing
National Geographic Traveler
New York Daily News
E-The Environmental Magazine

Health
Forbes
AAA Living

Smithsonian
AARP
The World & I

American Way
Disability Today
Midwest Living

“...what if every village, church, organization, business, and even family took this approach... asked these questions? What a world we would find!”
—FROM THE EXHIBIT GUEST BOOK
EMPOWER

OWNER, May 1995 – Present, John Noltner Photography, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Producing still images and video for editorial and commercial clients locally and internationally;
developing ideas and realizing objectives through visual storytelling
Establishing relationships, securing locations, and assessing visual options often on short
notice and in difficult conditions in order to manage creative logistics
Operate as sole proprietor, managing all cash flow, record keeping, and business activities

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

MEMBER, January 2009 – Present
Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, Minneapolis, Minnesota
MEMBER, June 2009 – Present
Peace and Justice Studies Association, Prescott, Arizona
BOARD MEMBER, December 2005 – September 2008
Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry, Minneapolis, Minnesota
FOUNDING BOARD MEMBER, June 2000 – July 2003
Peace House Africa, Minneapolis, Minnesota

AWARDS & HONORS

ARTS TOUR MINNESOTA, June 2010
Awarded funding through the Minnesota State Arts Board for the production of a traveling
exhibit and two initial showings of A Peace of My Mind

LEGACY FUND, January 2011
Secured funding intended to preserve Minnesota’s historical and cultural heritage to produce
a series of personal stories and portraits for the Muslim in Minnesota oral history project
through the Minnesota Historical Society

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, Artist-in-residence, October 2011

MIDWEST INDEPENDENT PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION, April 2012
First place award for the 2011 released book A Peace of My Mind

DULUTH SUPERIOR AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, May 2012
Awarded funding to display A Peace of My Mind and present a public forum in the community.

NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FORUM, Presenter, March 2012

ART FOR CHANGE AWARD, EDIT, Minneapolis, 2012

NEW YORK MILLS REGIONAL CULTURAL CENTER, Artist Residency, 2013

PEACE INITIATIVE AWARD, Jovial Concepts, Denver 2013

JEFFERSON AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE, Shakopee LEAD, 2013
“What a privilege to step into the lives of these inspiring people for a few minutes.”
—FROM THE EXHIBIT GUEST BOOK

### BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
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<th>Count</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>82,500</strong></td>
<td>direct audience exposed to project through exhibit and presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>57</strong></td>
<td>number of venues that have hosted the exhibit or lectures</td>
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<td><strong>39</strong></td>
<td>media outlets that have provided coverage to extend the reach of the project</td>
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<td><strong>92</strong></td>
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<td><strong>62,840</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1,975</strong></td>
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<td><strong>3,035</strong></td>
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“This project is everything I imagined it would be and more. Thank you for inspiring us to carry peace with us into the world.”

—FROM THE EXHIBIT GUEST BOOK.
PEACE AND GRATITUDE

A Peace of My Mind has developed with the grassroots support and encouragement of many wonderful people and organizations. While some of the loudest voices in our world can be divisive and polarizing, I believe there is a hunger for a different sort of conversation. There is a strong human desire to connect with others, to bridge the differences that may exist, and build a world that is just for all people.

Islamic Resource Group
IRG’s mission is to build bridges of understanding between Minnesota Muslims and the broader Minnesota community through education.
irgmn.org

Gustavus Adolphus College
The purpose of a Gustavus education is to help its students attain their full potential as persons, to develop in them a capacity and passion for lifelong learning, and to prepare them for fulfilling lives of leadership and service in society.
gustavus.edu

Jovial Concepts
Education and Awareness for Peace
Jovialconcepts.org

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Foundation
The Bethlehem Lutheran Church Foundation provides a way for members, friends and family of Bethlehem Lutheran Church to leave legacy gifts to benefit the church’s programming, its mission and its outreach to others.
bethlehem-church.org

Kickstarter
A new way to bring creative projects to life
kickstarter.com

Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry
Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry is a movement that engages individuals and communities in transformational partnerships across the globe. Centered in faith and dedicated to service, LPGM is called to action by sharing resources and hope.
lutheranpartners.org

Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers
To strengthen the effectiveness of the peace and justice community in Minnesota by enabling member organizations to share their resources, insights and ideas and devise cooperative strategies to accomplish common goals
mapm.org

Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality
A ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
wisdomwayscenter.org

Minnesota State Arts Board
A state agency that stimulates and encourages the creation, performance, and appreciation of the arts in Minnesota
arts.state.mn.us

Islamic Resource Group
IRG
9919 Little Road, Bloomington, MN 55437
T 612.865.9519
F 952.887.0670
E john@apeaceofmymind.net
www.apeaceofmymind.net
TESTIMONIALS

“A Peace of My Mind is a piece of heaven on earth. In the midst of a broken, and too often bloodied world, Noltner has curated a wondrous collection of real life stories of transformation and hope that remind us of who we really are — blessings to each other. This exhibit/performance is potent. Come as you are, leave even more so.”
ROGER WOLSEY, DIRECTOR, WESLEY FOUNDATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO – BOULDER

“It’s clean, refreshing, and poignant. Easy enough for a youngster to grasp, with depth enough to challenge adults”
BEAVER DAM DAILY CITIZEN

“John Noltner’s careful listening and recording of peacemakers thoughts in A Peace of My Mind give us all pause. The words are thought provoking and frequently profound. The breadth of his subjects reflects the diversity of which we are made up as a people. John’s poignant photographs enhance the words and draw you in to think more about how they see peacemaking, peacekeeping. I can look at the faces over and over hearing the passion they exude for a better, safer world.”
KATHY MCKAY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, IRAQI & AMERICAN RECONCILIATION PROJECT

“John Noltner’s A Peace of My Mind exhibit is a gift to communities and to the idea of community. Noltner puts individual faces and voices before us so that we can come to see and to know our neighbors and ourselves more fully. The collection is an exploration of — and a meaningful contribution to — peace and community.”
ADAM DAVIS, DIRECTOR, PROJECT ON CIVIC REFLECTION

“This collection is an exploration of — and a meaningful contribution to — peace and community.”
TERESA SCALZO, DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS, CARLETON COLLEGE

“John Noltner is one of those people moving the mission of Howard Zinn and Studs Terkel into the future.”
HARVEY WINJE, EDITOR, THE ALLEY

“Mr. Noltner captures through his exquisite photography and accompanying vocal narratives, the heartfelt messages of hope for a better world through peace . . . peace of heart, peace of mind, peace for all mankind. All one has to do is look into the eyes of his subjects and listen to their messages to know that a piece of mind exists in all of us and that collectively, we can make a difference in our very complex world.”
LAURIE CALLIES, CO-FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, PROJECTFOCUS HAWAII

“When I discovered this web log, I knew I had found a gem. His collections of interviews are inspiring, insightful, and give hope to others.”
SIMPLY LIVING

“A Peace of My Mind introduces us to people we likely would never meet on our own — because of differences in ethnic background, faith or the locations we live. And as we get to know these people, we come to realize that our differences are miniscule in light of the most-important trait: that we all want peace,”
JEFF STRICKLER, FAITH & VALUES REPORTER, MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE