



ROOTS of PEACE

*Turning Mines to Vines Worldwide*



*Thank You*



ROOTS of PEACE

International Headquarters  
4000 Civic Center Drive  
Suite 330  
San Rafael, CA 94903 USA

In Tribute to the 25th Anniversary of  
**ROOTS OF PEACE**

*Roots of Peace Day* September 8, 2022 Napa Valley, California

# IT ALL STARTS WITH SOLID ROOTS

Roots of Peace has transformed war-torn soils into bountiful harvests for the past  
25 Years... Join our #FootstepsForPeace

“You have turned mines to vines by replacing the seeds of death with the seeds of life.. and you have shown the world that even with modest beginnings, a partnership backed up by persistence can make a real difference.” - *United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan June 11, 2000*



ROOTS of PEACE

Global Greetings,

On behalf of The Kuhn Family, we are most honored to return to the Napa Valley in celebration of the 25th Silver Anniversary of Roots of Peace.

In September 1997, following the tragic death of Princess Diana who raised global landmine awareness, we set forth on a quest to light the royal torch by turning MINES TO VINES—replacing minefields with thriving vineyards and orchards worldwide.

Today, we celebrate our 25th Anniversary with California vintners who have respected the plight of farmers who deserve to cultivate their land without the fear of landmines beneath their plow. Through generous funding from the ‘Legends of the Vine’—Robert Mondavi, Diane Disney Miller, Miljenko Grgich, Austin Hills, Dolores Cakebread, Dede Wilsey, Judy Jordan, Eric Wente, Tor Kenward, Darioush Khaledi, Shirley & Paul Dean and many more—we were able to transform the lives of farmers living on former war-torn lands and sow the seeds of hope.

For the past quarter of a century, we have planted over six million fruit trees and impacted the lives of millions of farmers and families living in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Guatemala, Iraq, Israel, Palestine, and Vietnam.

Today, there are 60 million landmines in over 60 countries, which holds the land hostage long after the guns of war have silenced. As landmines are currently being laid in Ukraine, our vital work is more important than ever as we cultivate peace through agriculture.

We remain most grateful to Mayor John Dunbar for his leadership in proclaiming Roots of Peace Day from the heart of the Napa Valley to the world.

Together, may we truly plant the Roots of Peace on Earth...

Onward in Peace,

*Heidi Kuhn, CEO, Roots of Peace*

*Gary Kuhn, President, Roots of Peace*



## PROCLAMATION

### Declaring September 8, 2022 "Roots of Peace Day" in Yountville, California

**WHEREAS**, Roots of Peace is a humanitarian non-profit organization founded in September 1997 by San Francisco Bay Area residents Heidi and Gary Kuhn to fulfill their vision to transform "Mines to Vines" by replacing minefields with sustainable agricultural farmlands around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of Roots of Peace is to identify existing challenges in war-torn regions through engagement with local farmers and community members, design intervention aimed at improving safety, quality and production of agricultural lands, increase crop exports to support economic vitality, and generate peace and prosperity through economic independence; and

**WHEREAS**, as Chief Executive Officer, Heidi generated initial support from famed Napa Valley vintners including Robert Mondavi, Miljenko "Mike" Grgich, and Diane Disney Miller, to replace fields ravaged by landmines with vineyards and other agricultural crops; and

**WHEREAS**, Roots of Peace has been recognized for its humanitarian efforts by the United States Government, the United Nations, World Bank, and Rotary International. Heidi and her dedication have been recognized by numerous world leaders including UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and UN Chef de Cabinet E. Courtenay Rattray, His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, His Holiness Pope Francis, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, and many heads of state and government officials; and

**WHEREAS**, Heidi published her book, "*Breaking Ground*" in April 2020, which is both a memoir and a call to action in her quest to eradicate landmines and plant the roots of peace worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, this year, Roots of Peace celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of cultivating peace through agriculture and cultural partnerships. The organization has impacted more than 1 million farmers and families across eight countries, and has helped generate over \$1 billion in agricultural production in those nations; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of the September 8 launch of World Affairs Napa Valley, a new chapter of the global affairs organization that was founded in the United States in 1947, Heidi Kuhn will give the keynote address on behalf of Roots of Peace and its global humanitarian effort.

**Now, let it be resolved**, that I, John F. Dunbar, Mayor of the Town of Yountville, declare September 8, 2022 "Roots of Peace Day" in the Town of Yountville. We honor and celebrate the 25 years the organization has dedicated to replacing landmines for grapevines and other crops to support peace and prosperity around the world.

John F. Dunbar, Mayor

Dated: Sept. 8, 2022





Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House

September 8, 2022

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the United States Congress, it is my privilege to bring warm greetings to all those gathered for the launch of World Affairs Napa Valley, as you celebrate Roots of Peace's 25th anniversary. Thank you to Mayor Dunbar for making this celebration particularly special through your proclamation of Roots of Peace Day.

For a quarter-century, Roots of Peace has sown the seeds of safety and prosperity in war-torn communities through the lifesaving "Mines to Vines" initiative. Congress and the Country are grateful for the visionary leadership of Heidi Kühn, who has earned the respect and admiration of so many around the globe. Driven by her unwavering devotion to building a better world, Roots of Peace has transformed perilous battlefields into bountiful farmlands.

This remarkable organization continues to change lives: empowering farmers with new opportunities and freeing families from the senseless devastation inflicted by landmines. Indeed, that work remains more essential than ever. Roots of Peace's courageous efforts in Afghanistan have helped keep the flame of hope alive, and their work will be an inspiration to the world as we prepare to help the Ukrainian people rebuild their country after the war is won.

Bringing compassionate service to the vulnerable communities where it is needed most, Roots of Peace stands as a model for successful public-private partnerships – and their many friends in the Congress are proud to support their important work.

Thank you all for your continued commitment to advancing peace and prosperity – and best wishes for a wonderful event!

best regards,  
*Nancy Pelosi*  
NANCY PELOSI  
Speaker of the House



## *Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition*

Presented to

### *Roots of Peace*

*25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*

In recognition of twenty-five years of supporting and empowering local communities through the restoration of agriculture in war-torn areas of the world. Roots of Peace's work across seven countries, from Angola to Vietnam, has impacted more than 1.1 million farmers and their families. The organization's efforts to help evacuate Afghan employees and their families during and since the withdrawal of United States troops and resumption of Taliban control in Afghanistan last year shows a deep commitment to the people and places it serves. Roots of Peace has impacted millions of lives across the globe and deserves congratulations on this milestone anniversary.

**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Yountville, California  
September 8, 2022**

  
THE HON. JARED HUFFMAN  
CALIFORNIA'S SECOND DISTRICT  
UNITED STATES CONGRESS





United States Department of State  
Bureau of Political-Military Affairs  
Washington, DC 20520-6817

August 30, 2022

Ms. Heidi Kuhn  
CEO, Roots of Peace  
4000 Civic Center Drive, Suite 330  
San Rafael, California 94903 USA

Dear Ms. Kuhn,

Congratulations on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Roots of Peace. During the early days of Roots of Peace, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs provided support for Roots of Peace to turn "mines to vines" in Croatia. This project, as well as later projects in Afghanistan and Vietnam, complemented and supported U.S. Conventional Weapons Destruction programs goals of protecting innocent civilians from the threat of landmines and explosive remnants of war and returning agricultural land to productive use.

Best wishes to Roots of Peace as you continue your important work cultivating peace through agriculture.

Sincerely,

Karen Chandler

Director  
Office of Weapons Removal and  
Abatement  
Bureau of Political-Military Affairs  
U.S. Department of State



**USAID** | **AFGHANISTAN**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

September 1, 2022

Heidi Kuhn  
Founder and CEO, Roots of Peace  
4000 Civic Center Drive, Suite 330  
San Rafael, CA 94901

Dear Ms. Kuhn,

On the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Roots of Peace Mines to Vines initiative, I would like to congratulate you on your significant achievements and thank you for your partnership with USAID in Afghanistan over the years.

Our partnership began in 2003 when decades of war left Afghanistan's farming infrastructure in ruins and market linkages broken. With millions of farmers in search of income, USAID projects implemented by Roots of Peace provided inputs aimed at jump-starting the agricultural economy through seed and fertilizer distributions and projects focused on keeping youth from joining the insurgency. We also partnered on rebuilding roads and irrigation systems.

Later, USAID began an approach aimed at sustainable economic growth, with Roots of Peace as an important partner. We began working together with Afghan grape farmers on varieties that were in high commercial demand. Our trellising technology resulted in a 100-200 percent increase in yields. The transformation in yield and quality of grapes propelled by Roots of Peace became an example for others to emulate, and today, it has become the mainstay of grape cultivation in Afghanistan. Moreover, Roots of Peace has planted five million fruit trees in Afghanistan. You also established the first export cold chain in the country and oversaw the first refrigerated exports: fresh apricots to Karachi, grapes to Delhi, and eventually fresh fruit exports to 11 other countries.

Today, we celebrate the partnership between USAID and Roots of Peace that has assisted Afghan farmers to shift from cultivating lower-value annual crops such as wheat to higher-value perennial crops, such as apples, apricots, almonds, pomegranates, and grapes.

We wish you a great celebration on September 8, 2022, and continued success in years to come.

Our congratulations,

*Sean E Callahan*

Sean Callahan  
Mission Director  
USAID/Afghanistan



**BEYNÖLXALQ AVRASIYA  
MƏTBUAT FONDU**

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AZ-1006, Bakı şəhəri, Mehdi Hüseyn küçəsi 1\*.



**INTERNATIONAL EURASIA  
PRESS FUND**

NGO in General Consultative Status with the  
Economic and Social Council of the  
United Nations

www.iepf-ngo.org e-mail: office@iepf-ngo.org

AZ-1006, 1\* Mehdi Huseyn str., Baku

8<sup>th</sup> September 2022  
Napa Valley

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the International Eurasia Press Fund, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Mrs. Heidi Kuhn on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "Roots of Peace".

Mrs. Heidi Kuhn's initiative to eradicate mines and turn minefields into vineyards and orchards around the world has impacted the lives of millions of people. The idea of "Mines to Vines" was started in order to sow seeds of peace in war zones area, and this is successfully implemented in different countries of the world today.

In March of this year, the seeds of "Roots of Peace" were sown in Azerbaijan. On the eve of International Women's Day, Heidi Kuhn visited the mined contaminated Karabakh - Azerbaijan. I would like to mention that we have signed a memorandum of cooperation with "Roots of Peace" in Baku, Azerbaijan. We promised to do our best to turn Karabakh back into a flourishing garden. Now we are already starting the implementation of the "Mines to Vines" initiative in Karabakh. We shall see the roots of peace also sprout in another war-affected country.

I want to share that on October 14, the International Eurasia Press Fund will celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Heidi Kuhn will also attend our event as an honored guest. We as IEPF translated and published Heidi Kuhn's book "Breaking Ground" for Azerbaijani readers. After reading the book and meeting her, I say without hesitation: that one of the fifty most powerful women on the planet, and perhaps the first, is Heidi Kuhn. My best wishes to you and your team in your movement for peace.

All steps for peace!

Sincerely,

Umud Mirzayev

President of International Eurasia Press Fund

*IEPF has been functioning in Azerbaijan since 1992. IEPF works in 5 main activity directions of: Media and Civil Society development; Refugees and IDPs issues; Community development; and Peacemaking actions, Conflict Resolutions and Education. IEPF is a member of several International networks and programs such as: US Department of State, Private Partnership Program; the International Press Institute (IPI); the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE); the International Peace Bureau (IPB); the Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED) etc. IEPF is having a General Consultative Status with the ECOSOC division of the United Nations since 2014.*



GRGICH HILLS  
ESTATE



NAPA VALLEY

### 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Roots of Peace

At Grgich Hills Estate, we are honored to be a founding and contributing partner of Roots of Peace, a wonderful humanitarian organization led by Heidi Kuhn that is dedicated to the removal of landmines and the subsequent replanting and rebuilding of war-torn regions. The organization also works with farmers and entrepreneurs to improve each step of the agricultural value chain by introducing new methods and technology, improving export marketing techniques, and creating strategies for ramping up food exports to lucrative overseas markets.

In 2000, over one million land mines had been planted in Croatia, the homeland of my father Miljenko "Mike" Grgich, due to the Balkan War. It was a scourge that contributed to the death and maiming of many Croatians, particularly children and farmers. My father was excited to support Roots of Peace as they began the arduous process of removing mines and replacing them with vines, allowing people to safely return to their farms and vineyards in order to continue to work the same land that they and their ancestors had proudly worked for centuries. In fact, Mike accompanied Heidi Kuhn to Dragalić, Croatia, where they walked the very first minefield demined by Roots of Peace, turning "mines to vines".

For the past 25 years Roots of Peace has expanded its work into many more countries including Angola, Cambodia, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, Israel, and Guatemala, all in the cause of "cultivating peace through agriculture", benefiting millions of farmers and their families worldwide. They actively heal the wounds of war and plant seeds of life for future generations to thrive.

We continue to support this truly transformative work for peace throughout the world, and we invite you to join us in celebrating this inspiring milestone as we approach the next 25 years with hope for peace.

Yours, in peace,

Violet Grgich



**The Culinary Institute of America at Copia**

500 1st Street  
Napa, CA 94559  
Tel: 707-967-2500  
ciaatcopia.com



August 6, 2019

Mrs. Heidi Kuhn  
Founder/CEO  
Roots of Peace  
4000 Civic Center Drive  
San Rafael, California. 94901

Dear Mrs. Kuhn,

On behalf of The Culinary Institute of America at Copia, we are honored to partner with Roots of Peace in support of your vision to transform MINES TO VINES--replacing the scourge of landmines with sustainable farmland worldwide.

On the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, we support your clear vision to raise \$20 million by April 22, 2020 to eradicate all explosive remnants of war in Quang Tri province, former DMZ, Vietnam--planting black pepper vines on former battlefields.

It is fitting that we celebrate your accomplishments on the grounds of The CIA in the heart of the Napa Valley, as we celebrate food, wine, art and community. Known worldwide as a 'think tank' of the food industry and producing innovators in every area of the food business, the Culinary Institute of America prides itself in our new partnership with Roots of Peace--helping restore agricultural lands which were once held hostage to war.

One of the feature elements of our Earth Day Celebration on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2020, and subsequent four day Earth Day Festival, is the art installation "Gaia" by Luke Jerram. Measuring seven meters in diameter, *Gaia* features 120dpi detailed NASA imagery of the Earth's surface. The artwork provides the opportunity to see our planet on this scale, floating in three-dimensions above Copia's outdoor amphitheater. <https://my-earth.org/about/>

The Napa Valley is home to the largest Veterans Home in the United States, and many of the residents once served in The Vietnam War. Over 40 years later, we support your efforts to heal the wounds of war and plant sustainable agriculture for future generations to thrive. On the occasion of Earth Day, April 22, 2020, our chefs will serve fresh black pepper from Vietnam and saffron from Afghanistan, which is now sold by Morton and Bassett Spice Company in support of Roots of Peace.

We hope our historic event is the 'capstone' for your efforts to raise \$20 million by Earth Day 2020, as we heal the wounds of war and plant the Roots of Peace on Earth.

Sincerely,

Thomas Bense  
Managing Director, CIA CA Campus







August 31, 2022

Ms. Heidi Kuhn  
Founder & CEO  
Roots of Peace  
4000 Civic Center Drive, Suite 330  
San Rafael, California 94903 USA

RE: Congratulations on the 25th Anniversary of Roots of Peace

Dear Heidi,

It is fitting that I write this congratulatory letter on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the passing of our beloved Princess Diana. In the weeks immediately prior to her untimely demise, the Princess focused world attention on the scourge of landmines, which continue to kill and maim innocent people long after the end of conflicts.

Twenty-five years ago, inspired by the legacy of the Princess, combined with a humanitarian concern to make the world a better place, you launched from your kitchen table in Marin County, a mission to confront this problem head-on, growing it into a global phenomenon. You raised international awareness and improved thousands of lives by turning former war zones into productive farmland, working with indigenous farmers in the spirit of agriculture for Peace. Since its early days garnering support from Napa Valley vintners through the Mines-to-Vines initiative, Roots of Peace has been a standard bearer affecting real change.

We also want to also thank you for your inspiring support toward the formation of this very organization, World Affairs Napa Valley, whose successful launch as "Napa Valley's Window on the World," was facilitated by Roots of Peace participation in its inaugural program, to spotlight global humanitarian and international topics in community forums of learning and engagement.

On this twenty-fifth anniversary of Roots of Peace, on behalf of our Board and community members of World Affairs Napa Valley, we send you our most sincere congratulations and continued support for the mission of Roots of Peace to make the world a better place.

Sincerely,

Stan Knight  
Chairperson  
World Affairs Napa Valley  
Saint Helena, California  
"Napa Valley's Window on the World"



WENTE  
FAMILY ESTATES

31 August 2022

Heidi Kuhn, Founder & CEO  
4000 Civic Center Dr., Suite 330  
San Rafael, CA 94901

Dear Heidi:

Congratulations on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of **Roots of Peace**. You have put your heart and soul into this organization and have created a wonderful result.

I am very proud to have participated in the early history of **Roots of Peace** and to have been present at the signing of the Anti Mines Treaty in Ottawa. My memory of the day is still quite clear.

Please know that you have our continued strong support and again, congratulations.

Regards,

Eric P. Wente  
Chairman Emeritus  
Wente Family Estates

ESTATE WINERY AND TASTING ROOM  
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tel (925) 456-2300 fax (925) 456-2301  
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PROTOCOL PROFESSIONALS, INC.  
San Francisco, California

Our team of business and diplomatic protocol experts is greatly honored to salute Ms. Heidi Kuhn and her entire "Roots of Peace" organization on the special occasion of their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

It has been our pleasure to have helped launch their global efforts to transform "landmines to grapevines" from its inception. Due to Heidi's amazing ability to outreach to world leaders, we have enjoyed assisting with not only event planning but cross-cultural issues and proper diplomatic protocol methods. Some of our most noteworthy efforts to assist R.O.P. have been in planning and executing world leader VIP dignitary events including some memorable occasions. One had to be ready for important questions such as "Do we do a stand-up" when a member of Royalty enters the room?

Ms. Kuhn and Roots of Peace have secured support from countless world luminaries, ranging from the Vatican and the Holy See to the President of Afghanistan to the British Royal Family. When the stakes are high and the opportunity to improve countless lives in many countries are at stake, making the right connections, observing cultural nuances and rules of international protocol are important.

Every step made by R.O.P. was crucial in creating effective collaboration, making a remarkable difference. These examples of well-known individuals and locations were just a few that were strategic:

- Her Majesty Queen Noor Al-Hussein aboard the Queen Mary 2
- The United Nations Secretary General and Mrs. Kofi Annan welcomed in multiple locations including the launch of R.O.P. and at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, California
- In-country meetings with the former President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. His Excellency Hamid Karzai and in Washington DC with H.E. Ambassador Said Jawad
- His Excellency Ambassador Abderahman Salaheldin, the Arab Republic of Egypt luncheon
- United Nations luncheon for all United Nations Ambassadors
- His Royal Highness Zaid Ra'ad al Hussein, Prince of Jordan, with Mr. & Mrs. Robert Mondavi, Mr. Jerry White of Landmine Survivors Network, dinner at the Robert Mondavi Winery, Napa, California
- Legendary American folk singer, Judy Collins at the R.O.P.- UN garden
- Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Jody Williams event
- Hosted luncheon by beloved Diane Disney Miller, a great supporter of R.O.P. whose parents Walt and Lillian Disney, were my employer, having served as their Lead VIP Hostess. Heidi and I shared this wonderful connection and admiration for the Disney's

All of this speaks to the special synergy between "Roots of Peace and "Protocol Professionals". Through this effective collaboration, we have personally witnessed Heidi Kuhn's dedication to markedly transforming the world; to her indefatigable effort to make a difference in people's lives in the pursuit of peace.

As Robert F. Kennedy once said, "The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to making things better." On this 25<sup>th</sup> "Roots of Peace" Anniversary, with pleasure, we applaud all of the remarkable and fearless efforts made by R.O.P. We wish Heidi Kuhn and "Roots of Peace", continued great success in their future projects. Thank you for sharing in this special day.

Yours kindly,

*Sherri Ferris*

Sherri Ferris  
President and CEO  
Protocol Professionals, Inc.  
[sherri@protocolprofessionals.com](mailto:sherri@protocolprofessionals.com)  
+1 415.673.5311



August 26, 2022

Mrs. Heidi Kuhn  
Founder/CEO  
Roots of Peace  
Marin Executive Center  
4000 Civic Center Drive, Suite 330  
San Rafael, CA 94901

Dear Heidi,

On behalf of Rotary International District 5150, congratulations on celebrating the Silver Anniversary of Roots of Peace.

Promoting peace is the common thread that links all of Rotary's organizational initiatives, including our seven Areas of Focus. When communities are embroiled in conflict, their access to safe land to live on and prosper is compromised. The 25 years that Roots of Peace has been turning "mines into vines" has made a profound impact on these communities. In addition to removing the remnants of war, your organization has provided assistance at every level of those communities' agricultural endeavors. This has improved their livelihoods and contributed to peace in war-torn lands. Your collaborative efforts to outreach to children in remote areas to vaccinate them against polio has also been greatly appreciated.

We are pleased that our Rotary Clubs have been ardent supporters of your initiatives throughout the years and look forward to the next 25 years of eradicating land mines from the face of the earth while firmly planting the roots of peace.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Gary Chow  
Rotary International District 5150 Governor, 2022-2023



**Benazir Yakta Trading Company**  
شرکت تجارتي بی نظیر یکتا  
د بی نظیر یکتا سوداگریز کمپنی

Date: Sep /08/ 2022

Mrs. Heidi Kuhn  
Founder/CEO, Roots of Peace  
4000 Civic Center Drive, Suite 330  
San Rafael, California. 94901 USA

Dear Mrs. Kuhn,

On behalf of my Afghan woman-owned company, Benazir Yakta, Ltd., I would like to personally congratulate you on the 25th Anniversary of Roots of Peace—the vision of an American mother to transform minefields into thriving farmland worldwide.

I am the personal beneficiary of your vision to turn MINES TO VINES, as Afghanistan is the most heavily mined countries in the world. Yet, you have set your sites on cultivating peace through agriculture, as you have healed the wounds of war. My company exists as a result of your investment in peace, as USAID/CHAMP funded my business in 2017.

As a result of this program implemented by Roots of Peace, I was able to build my business from Kabul, to employ over 80 Afghan women to export fresh and dried fruits to international markets. Working with multiple provinces in Afghanistan, we provide pre-harvest and post-harvest programs to improve the value chain and increase income.

Agriculture is the basement of all nations. And, Heidi Kuhn, Founder, Roots of Peace worked diligently from the basement of her own home in California to bring this vision across the world to impact Afghan men and women. Our country is 80% dependent upon agriculture for jobs, and Mrs. Kuhn and her staff planted over six million fruit trees for sustainable peace through agriculture to thrive.

I would personally like to extend my most sincere gratitude to Mrs. Kuhn who mentored me as a young Afghan business woman. One year ago, when the U.S. military withdrawal occurred on August 31, 2021, she worked hard as a mother to evacuate her staff who were most at risk. As a Hazara woman, and business leader, my life was highly at risk.

Mrs. Kuhn wrote a personal letter to President Joseph Biden and Speaker Nancy Pelosi to assure that I was safely evacuated as a pregnant mother whose life was threatened.

She flew to Washington, D.C., and personally appealed to the U.S. Ambassador of Pakistan to secure a VISA to save my life. As a result, my husband and I were able to travel along a dangerous pass through the Torkham border and safely arrived in Islamabad—to deliver my first-born son, Amir, via emergency cesarian (C-Section) in the hospital.

The life of my son—and myself—were saved through her tireless efforts to assure our safe evacuation and delivery of life.

I remain most grateful to Roots of Peace for their continued efforts to plant over one million fruit trees in my beloved country in Afghanistan during the Spring of 2022.

Our hearts remain in our country, and we remain hopeful that Mrs. Kuhn may fulfill her dream to plant the Roots of Peace on former war-torn lands worldwide—for the sake of our families left behind who face staggering hunger and starvation in the months ahead.

Sincerely,  
Benazir Yakta



Add: Shahrak-e- Omid Sabz, District # 6, Kabul, Afghanistan

Mobile: 0093 773 10 10 70/ 745 0000 70

Email: [benaziryakta@gmail.com](mailto:benaziryakta@gmail.com)

Website: [www.benaziryakta.com](http://www.benaziryakta.com)

Facebook: Benazir Yakta Trading Company

LinkedIn: Benazir Yakta





Roots of Peace  
Mrs. Heidi Kuhn  
4000 Civic Center Drive #330  
San Rafael, Ca. 94901

Dear Mrs. Heidi Kuhn,

It is with great pleasure that I formally congratulate you on 25 years of immeasurable success worldwide in your grandiose journey towards world peace. Through the eradication of landmines, your valiant efforts have given great opportunities to those living amidst terror and far reaching dreams, a more tranquil space to call home, the viability of a job, dignity to provide for their families and a humanistic quality to their livelihoods. In your efforts of planting sustainable peace through agriculture, you have allowed communities a voice, a purpose and a chance at success.

When our families met over 25 years ago, the connection was instant. You, a mother of four beautiful children with a vision in your heart for the world to go from mines to vines inspired us to jump on this journey with you. Our faith brought us together and our friendship blossomed and flourished. I am honored to call you my mentor today. It is with the greatest of respect that I have learned the value of pure kindness, dignity and honor of human life from you. Your extraordinary vision has created the most beautiful ripple effect around the world. It is a privilege to support a fellow mother, visionary and a direction of considerable importance in our world. My hope is to inspire all to become global citizens, such as yourself, to lead by example and follow a journey of compassion and humility for the preciousness of life. Your dream and journey has surpassed the wildest of imaginations, while being a great inspiration to those in our community, showing the power of perseverance all led with an open heart. Agriculture is a living, breathing ecosystem and in it comes a plethora of bounty if met with love, care and consideration. You have planted the roots of peace and have witnessed the immense bounty that has come from Mother Earth; a bounty that is now nourishing communities, families and enabling women the opportunity of a lifetime. Their economies have grown, empowerment created and sustained all by giving the gift of a mine free land. I am most enthusiastic to see just what Roots of Peace does in the second 25 years of its existence. The Napa Valley community, where it all began will become the epicenter from where peace is reminded; a world free of conflict begins at the roots.

With immense gratitude and heartfelt congratulations,

Maria Castellucci, Proprietor Castellucci Napa Valley





# HuaQiao Foundation

Building a bridge of love and caring through service

Dear Heidi Kuhn,

This my greatest pleasure congratulating Roots of Peace 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I and HuaQiao foundation came to know you & your hard working respectable peace maker Roots of Peace last 5 years we look upon you as model of world peace maker working hard digging deep into the roots of Peace and conflicts resolution for a more peaceful world since myself and my foundations are like I described are all Peace Dreamers.

Your efforts transforming minefields to vineyards sweeping out explosives and plant with fruit trees, crops and pepper corns deserve full HuaQiao attention & support and on Xmas Day in 2017 I put up one million Renminbi the largest donation ever to Roots of Peace from which we learnt and still learning a great deal ways and means to sustain peace in once war torn nations, Vietnam and Afghanistan for instances. Hua Qiao foundation is assigning our CEO good friend Randal Eastman co-founder of Rotary and Toastmaster Clubs in China to relocate family to Saigon Vietnam to continue Roots of Peace legendary work in Vietnam and Mid Asia inclusive of Afghanistan and Kazakhstan.

Lately, you & I agreed to refurbish China Camp in San Rafael near your lovely home to show McNear Family kindness allowing 500 Chinese migrant US Trans-continent Railway workers to raise family exporting drying shrimps in mid 1980s and together working in KaiPing, GuangDong Technology Museum in China to show Kaiping US born generations academic achievements like Dr. Victor Wong, Vice Chancellor of Michigan University and other Science and Technology Intellectuals contributing to the success of US Industry and Commerce.

On behalf of the peace makers in the world and benefactors of once war torn nations I and HQF thank you for what you have done in last 25 years and wish your sons and daughter are taking over your running baton and continue to promote peace in the world for next 25 years , that will be the year of 2047.

Best Peace Wishes

Frank Yih  
Founder of Shanghai Rotary.  
Chairman, HuaQiao Foundation.  
Pioneer of Microchips, inventor of affordable plastic encapsulation  
Peace Dreamer & Philanthropist, 88 years young





GENERALNI KONZULAT REPUBLIKE HRVATSKE  
CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
LOS ANGELES

Napa Valley, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022

*Dear Friends,*

*As Consul General of the Republic of Croatia and on behalf of the Consulate General of the Republic of Croatia in Los Angeles, it is my great pleasure to congratulate you on this special occasion, the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Roots of Peace.*

*I am very honored to be able to take part in such an important day, when we honor the unwavering commitment of Heidi Kühn in the fight to eradicate landmines around the world. She has touched so many people through the Mines to Vines initiative, aiming to transform minefields into vineyards and orchards, sowing seeds of life and prosperity in place of death and destruction. It is such an admirable and very much needed initiative, being aware of more than 100 million landmines still in the ground in the world today, and the unbearable toll they are taking every single day, killing and maiming people, and taking away their livelihoods.*

*This year, when we are celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the International Recognition of the Republic of Croatia as an independent state, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the hard work and dedication to demining efforts in Croatia and the world, along with Mike Grgich and his family. In the last 30 years, Croatia has come a long way, in rebuilding after the war, eradicating landmines and creating a better future for its people, as a proud member of the EU and NATO, and as a shining example of what can be done when we work together for peace and prosperity.*

*Sincerely,*

*Renee Pea*



*Consul General*



Edinburgh September 4<sup>th</sup> 2022

Mrs Heidi Kuhn  
Founder and CEO  
Roots of Peace

Dear Heidi,

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Founding of Roots of Peace

The Asia Scotland Institute is proud to be associated with your work and that of Roots of Peace, dedicated to bringing peace to parts of the world condemned by conflict and the killing caused by landmines that are blind to whom they harm and hide unseen in the ground.

In a quarter of a century, you have cleared millions of mines and brought hope to farmers in different parts of the world, turning mines into vines and restoring economic hope to diverse communities around the globe. This work is an example of what can be achieved when efforts are mobilized and your inspiration has motivated so many to overcome acute adversity.

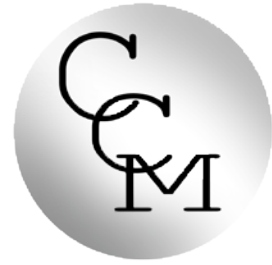
We have been honoured to host you in Scotland, the land of your forebears, and look forward to welcoming you back as you continue to spread the word of the work of Roots of Peace.

With warm regards



Roddy Gow  
Roddy Gow OBE  
Chairman and Founder  
The Asia Scotland Institute  
[www.asiascot.com](http://www.asiascot.com)





**@CherylCamMedia**  
Strategic Communications Advisor  
Cheryl Jennings Media  
Consulting  
415 203 2210  
CherylCamMedia@ahcc.com

Cheryl Jennings  
Strategic Communications Advisor  
September 8, 2022

Congratulations to Heidi and Gary Kuhn and the entire Roots of Peace team as you celebrate 25 years of service creating Peace through Agriculture!

As an Emmy-award winning journalist and former ABC7 News Anchor, I have traveled with Heidi and Gary Kuhn for nearly 20 years to document and validate the work of Roots of Peace in several war-torn countries. My first trip to Afghanistan was in 2005 to observe the Roots of Peace pilot program. I went back to Afghanistan in 2015 with Heidi and Gary to see what progress had been made, and it was stunning.

Roots of Peace introduced modern farming methods and refrigeration storage to Afghanistan for the first time, and provided training in sorting, packing, and marketing. They linked farmers with traders and international markets. This non-profit's work with its funding partners raised the gross domestic product in Afghanistan by more than two per cent. Under Heidi and Gary's leadership, Roots of Peace increased agricultural exports from \$250 million in 2014 to more than \$1.4 billion in 2020. The funding came from the U.S. Agency for International Development's CHAMP Program: Commercial Horticulture and Agricultural Marketing Program. That's a nation-changing success! Thank you, Roots of Peace for your passion and commitment!

*Cheryl Jennings*

Cheryl Jennings  
Former ABC7 News Anchor  
Strategic Communications Advisor @CherylCamMedia

## CHERYL JENNINGS: TELLING THE STORY OF ROOTS OF PEACE





Ms. Heidi Kühn  
Founder & CEO  
Roots of Peace

28 August 2022

**Subject: Congratulatory Message on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Roots of Peace**

Dear Ms. Kühn,

On the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Roots of Peace, on behalf of UNDP Afghanistan, I would like to congratulate you for your tireless devotion and commitment to supporting small-holder farmers in the remote communities in Afghanistan.

For close to three years UNDP Afghanistan has enjoyed a very fruitful partnership with Roots of Peace which has translated into improving the income of thousands of Afghans through decent livelihoods opportunities. Roots of Peace unparalleled devotion to the betterment of the Afghan people and supporting their hope for the future was further evidenced through its commitment to embrace UN Community's decision to stay and deliver at a critical moment that followed power shift in August 2021.

UNDP Afghanistan looks forward to the continued partnership and collaboration with Roots of Peace in building the resilience of the Afghan communities.

Yours Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
*Surayo Buzurukova*  
CBF2160808FA487...

Ms. Surayo Buzurukova  
Resident Representative, OIC  
UNDP Afghanistan

## Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn

President Emeritus - The World Food Prize Foundation

September 8, 2022

It is my great personal honor to join with an array of distinguished international leaders and diplomats in extending my warmest congratulations to Roots of Peace and its charismatic leader and my dear friend Heidi Kuhn, as they celebrate the 25th anniversary of turning "Mines Into Vines" around the globe.

In January of 2020, I had the unique privilege to join Heidi in Quang Tri Province of Vietnam, where we pushed a button to detonate a newly uncovered mine that was left over from the War that had ended almost 50 years ago. Earlier that day, we had visited with farmers who had been maimed by these insidious silent killers, but now lead productive lives with fruit tree orchards provided by Roots of Peace.

In the spirit of Princess Diana, whose example 25 years ago inspired Heidi Kuhn to found Roots of Peace in her living room, through her passionate commitment and dynamic leadership, in collaboration with her husband Gary, Heidi has built Roots of Peace into a global humanitarian force for good, impacting farmers in countries from Afghanistan to the Middle East to Central America.

From my own experience in confronting landmines, unexploded ordnance and ending conflict during both my diplomatic career and in leading the World Food Prize Foundation, the central theme of my endeavors, one that I share with Heidi Kuhn, is building Peace Through Agriculture.

Warmest Congratulations.

Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn (ret.)  
President Emeritus  
The World Food Prize



Ms. Heidi Kuhn  
Roots of Peace  
4000 Civic Center Drive, Suite 330  
San Rafael, California 94903

August 29, 2022

Dear Ms. Kuhn,

On behalf of Women Forward International, I wish to congratulate Roots of Peace on 25 years of service to humanity.

You have, in spite of all the uncertainties and obstacles that may have stood in the way, given the world a new view of what is possible when we come together around shared understanding, compassion, and care for all – without exception. *Everyone* benefits from the fruits of your trees, the planting process, and the abundance born by your collaborative work.

Thank you for being a forceful inspiration for human unity.

With all good wishes for your work and mission,

Kent Davis-Packard

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kent Davis-Packard".

Kent Davis-Packard, Ph.D.  
Founder & President  
Women Forward International

Dear Friends,

On Behalf of Insight Editions I am proud to support Heidi and Gary Kuhn and Roots of Peace, and to join all those gathered to celebrate Roots of Peace's 25th anniversary. Many thanks to Mayor Dunbar of Yountville for your proclamation of Roots of Peace Day to honor this special event and this very special organization.

It is particularly special for me, not only as the publisher of Heidi's new book, *Breaking Ground*, but also as a long term supporter and friend of Roots of Peace through the years. My journey with Heidi began 60 years ago as we grew up across the street from each other in San Rafael and have been friends ever since. I first became impressed with the magnitude of Heidi's work while attending a special event with the late Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, in which he spoke passionately about the work Heidi and Roots of Peace were doing in war torn countries—removing land mines and planting hope in the form of agriculture and teaching farming.

Her story exemplifies the persistence, hope, and ultimately faith required to change lives, change policies, and make the world a better place. Her story is a lesson for us all, which inspired us to publish *Breaking Ground*. As the book shows, Heidi's journey has been one of extraordinary determination and the continual refusal to let obstacles stand in her way. It is a lesson in fearlessness, and an unshakable belief that if you are unselfishly pursuing the right cause, you will meet every challenge you encounter.

I am also proud to have Heidi and Gary on our permanent Board of Advisors for Mandala Springs Retreat and Education Center in Cobb, California. Our mission is to inspire the next generation of environmental leaders by connecting them with real role models like Heidi and Gary who are true Enviromentors.

I join all those assembled on this special occasion to wish Roots of Peace another 25 years of success serving global communities, removing land-mines, and giving hope and inspiration to the next generation.

Warm Regards,  
Raoul Goff  
Insight Editions | CEO-Publisher

*From Landmines to Grapevines,  
One Woman's Mission to Heal the World*

HEIDI KÜHN

