



SEEDS OF SOLIDARITY EDUCATION CENTER

165 Chestnut Hill Road, Orange, MA 01364 • (978) 544-7564

November, 2023

Dear Friends,

We celebrate a full year of program successes and joyful moments—bringing us to 25 years of carrying our mission and work forward! Thanks to your support, Seeds of Solidarity remains an ever-creative force for positive change. You uplift our work that teaches thousands locally and globally to Grow Food Everywhere, promote wellness where there is despair, and educate for climate justice. We've learned that by moving at the speed of trust and rippling outward, by leading from the heart with collaborative values and solid partnerships, another world is possible.



At this time, **your tax-deductible contribution is vital to sustain our programs and energize fresh vision in the year to come. Enjoy reading about all your generous support makes possible!** We hope you enjoy the enclosed recipes and they bring a taste of our educational programs to your table. May these offer YOU nourishment through the seasons, and affirm how much we value your connection to Seeds of Solidarity!

Unique approaches to program design and leadership enliven and strengthen Seeds of Solidarity. Our Women Healing Women Healing Earth program thrives! An awesome team of culturally diverse educators provide fabulous and free arts, nature, cooking, and healing workshops from spring through fall, where local women counter isolation and stress with creativity and connection. We are excited to plan the 2024 series!



Grow the Future was the theme for our workshops for all ages. Some participants came to re-establish chestnuts for food and habitat. Others spent a constructive weekend together in a DIY building intensive. Farmers and gardeners flocked to our annual no-till agriculture workshop for healthy soil and climate resilience, that we offered free of charge to farmers of color and those impacted by devastating flooding this year.

Our classes at our county jail combine hands-on gardening with discussion of health, environmental, and social justice topics, and provide college credit to people incarcerated. Strong interest among



participants to continue to engage in honest and thought-provoking dialogue gave rise to a new bi-weekly Authentic Conversation class at the jail led by Seeds of Solidarity co-founder Ricky. (over)

*Seeds of Solidarity Education Center Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.
Visit seedsofsolidarity.org for more: programs, events, resources or to make a donation.*

CELEBRATE! THRIVE! WE'RE 25!

Our Stocking Up Farmshare program in collaboration with Quabbin Harvest coop provides a monthly bag of quality food, recipes, and family activities to local families struggling to make ends meet. In addition, brimming boxes of our produce go to SNAP beneficiaries through Quabbin Harvest, and our own farmstand serves hundreds of community members through fresh, low-cost produce. We enjoy serving as a learning site for a local community college's sustainable agriculture class, and are pleased to bring our Grow Food Everywhere workshops off-site too, including as faculty at the Omega Institute for Holistic Studies. Participating in the International Wellbeing Summit held there this fall fueled our plans to develop team building and leadership retreats at Seeds of Solidarity in the year to come.



This year marked the 25th North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival. Seeds of Solidarity is among the co-founders and organizers of this event that uplifts farm and art livelihoods and revitalizes our region. New Seeds of Solidarity contributions this year included an Honoring our Waters installation, poetry readings on the spoken word stage by women in our programs, and a free garlic recipes booklet. The festival is a community-created phenomenon that gathers thousands to enjoy music and performance amid rolling fields, and a plethora of workshops that inspire ecological living and a vibrant future.



We forge onward with renewed dedication and belief that, in the words of Jimi Hendrix: *When the Power of Love is Greater than the Love of Power, the World will Know Peace.*

We truly could not sow Seeds of Solidarity without you.

We await your reply with joy and gratitude,

Ricky Baruch and Deb Habib, Co-Founders

We welcomed the Venerable Sasamori Shonin to Seeds of Solidarity while here for the anniversary of the New England Peace Pagoda and dedication of a monument to Slow Turtle, supreme medicine man of the Mashpee Wampanoags. Our farm and organization was initiated in 1996 upon our return from the International Pilgrimage for Peace and Life from Auschwitz to Hiroshima that was led by Sasamori. While on this 8-month journey, inclusive of Israel and Palestine, Iraq and India, we spent time with non-violent activists and humanitarians throughout the world. It has remained our deep intention since that Seeds of Solidarity be a place of learning, connection, and healing, as it has been for thousands, and thanks to your support.

