

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***San Francisco Peace and Hope* web magazine to hold inaugural poetry reading.**

The recent Japanese earthquake and tsunami have rekindled in Americans the shock and horror they experienced a decade ago after the attacks on the World Trade Center, emotions dulled by time but never forgotten.

San Francisco Peace and Hope is an online journal <http://sfpeaceandhope.com> that seeks, if not to heal such wounds, then at least to come to meaningful terms with them. It began as a blog started by Elizabeth Hack, founder and editor, on September 12th in order to connect San Franciscans with New York, where she spent much of her childhood. Now, a decade later, Peace and Hope has expanded to become an online journal.

Informed by the idealism of the 1960s, San Francisco Peace and Hope is a continuing labor of love produced by the poets and visual artists of the Bay Area. Al Young, California's poet laureate emeritus, serves as advisor, and has written the magazine's foreword. Niya C. Sisk of Ritual Labs designed the website.

We at San Francisco Peace and Hope believe that examining global change and celebrating the changeless aspects of life are essential these days. While we welcome the communication potential of modern technology —twitter, Facebook, ipods, and email— we are conscious of the risk of becoming dehumanized through subservience to such media devices. We still need to "smell the roses" through poetry and art, and to connect with nature and eternity.

Peace and Hope is proud to announce a poetry reading celebrating its magazine debut in San Francisco on June 15, 2011, featuring readings by Al Young, Kit Kennedy, and Susan Gangel. Dan Brady will host the event, and Elizabeth Hack and Niya C. Sisk will offer some remarks about the evolution of Peace and Hope. An open mic will follow. The reading begins at 7:30pm, June 15, 2011, at Sacred Grounds Café, 2095 Hayes Street, San Francisco.

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