



STEVE MALONE/NEWS-PRESS

Santa Barbara resident Steve Diamond is planning a worldwide day of peace through his project "One Day In Peace, Jan. 1, 2000."

Spiritualist's goal a day of peace

For the last 10 years, Steve Diamond has been working toward worldwide peace. His goal, through "One Day In Peace, Jan. 1, 2000," is to have a 24-hour period when no guns are fired around the world. He plans include the media — having television stations worldwide broadcast shows that are violence free.

"I feel that Jan. 1, 2000, is like a window for humanity, moving into the next century and millennium," Diamond says. "It's an opportunity to start the next thousand years off on a note of peace."

He sees this project as a chance for humanity to realize that war and violence do not have to dominate the world.

"One day of no war around the world will show that peace is possible," he says.

To accomplish his mission, Diamond says he is reaching out to the United Nations and world governments to gain a resolution setting the first day of the millennium as "One Day in Peace." The resolution, he says, will be sought when the general assembly reconvenes this September.

He is also gathering support for the one-man project through the Internet.

In addition to the project, Diamond — along with Bob Silverstein, a New Jersey writer — has written the children's book, titled "One Day in Peace, January 1, 2000!" The book has a similar theme to Diamond's peace project. They are seeking a publisher.

Recently, the Millennium Institute in Arlington, Va., awarded Diamond and his "One Day in Peace" project honorable mention in a contest for best ideas for the new millennium.

As a youngster, Diamond says he grew up feeling close to all religions.

"I was brought up Jewish, going to temple

profiles in faith

BOB BARBER

Friday evenings with my family, and to Catholic Mass with my friends on Sunday," he says.

He was born Dec. 7, 1946, in Panama, where his father was stationed in the U.S. Navy. He attended Blair Academy, a Presbyterian prep school in New Jersey, "where we recited the Lord's Prayer every day at 5 p.m."

Then he attended Columbia University, "where I heard the voices of Kerouac, Allen Ginsberg, and Gary Snyder and also learned about Buddhism and Hinduism."

Diamond was just a few units short of graduating from Columbia when he joined the anti-Vietnam War movement. At 22, he described himself as the "hippie peace worker," traveling to Massachusetts where he helped found an organic farm.

It was around that time when Diamond became increasingly involved in the New Age spiritual movement.

He moved to Ojai in 1984 and worked as a free-lance writer, reporting on the New Age movement. He discovered the Theosophical Society and joined the Krotona Lodge. One of the goals of the society, he says, is to promote "a universal brotherhood of man."

In early 1985, he was moved to Santa Barbara and was hired by Santa Barbara phil-

anthropist and social activist Kit Tremaine to edit her first book, "The Butterfly Rises," about her experiences with channeling and mediumship. He also helped on her autobiography, "Fragments."

He wrote "What the Trees Said, Life on a New Age Farm," in 1971, which dealt with his time at the organic farm and commune. His work is included in two anthologies, "Current Thinking and Writing," a college writing textbook, and "Communes, Readings in Modern Sociology."

Diamond won the Massachusetts Arts & Humanities Fiction Award in 1977, and a \$3,500 prize in the new-fiction category, and the "Best Film" award from the New York/Montreal Psychic Film Festival for "Voices of Spirit," a documentary about trance medium Elwood Babbitt, which he wrote and produced in 1975.

For the past eight years, he has been an independent rehabilitation counselor in the state Worker's Compensation system. Diamond likes to "go to Ojai and walk in nature." He also spends time on the Douglas Family Preserve in Santa Barbara meditating.

"To me, 10 minutes walking on the Douglas property equals an hour spent in silent meditation," he says.

Diamond says he believes God "is both within and without us. God is everywhere, in everything. Jesus showed the way, to inspire us, to give us an example of how we might be."

Diamond, who also believes in reincarnation, says that "being alive is like being in school. You learn more, and eventually, you graduate."

Bob Barber is a Santa Barbara free-lance writer.