



# *The Beginning of Peace*

*A Monthly Newsletter by Sarah Granby*

Welcome!

**Dear Friends,**

Welcome to the July issue of *The Beginning of Peace*! In this issue, I reflect on our Founding Fathers and their motivations, as well as make a new recommendation for my book and organization of the month.

My book recommendation of the month is a biography of Abraham Lincoln called *With Malice Toward None* by Stephen B. Oates. The author does an excellent job of creating a compelling, in-depth look at a man and era we already know so much about.

The organization that I am recommending this month is The Peace Alliance([www.thepeacealliance.org](http://www.thepeacealliance.org)). The goal of The Peace Alliance is to create a cabinet-level United States Department of Peace. The Southern California chapter is called Americans for a Department of Peace ([www.afdop.org](http://www.afdop.org)).

I hope you all had a fun, relaxing and safe 4th of July!

*In peace,*

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## Our Founding Fathers

*"And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our Sacred Honor."  
-Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776*

Recently, curiosity moved me to look into the motivations and passions of our Founding Fathers. I wanted to understand how we have changed - from idealistic founders of modern day democracy to a disconnected country of red and blue states. Rereading the Declaration of Independence gave me goose bumps. I could feel the passion, conviction and desire in these courageous men. These were men who knew that they were signing a death warrant not only against themselves, but also their families and life as they knew it. And these were men who had plenty to lose. They were educated professionals, lawyers, merchants and farmers. Their lives as colonists had reached a point that they were willing to pay for freedom with their lives, as is evident in the last line of the Declaration of Independence: "We mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our Sacred Honor."

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Today's politicians seem to be so much farther removed from the entire process of war. It is not that they do not take it as seriously, but the reality of war is not as close to home - it is not necessarily their sons and daughters, or even their friends' sons and daughters that they are sending to war. Why is it that we see only two possibilities - war or no war? I believe we are innovative, entrepreneurial and bold enough to come up with new solutions that step outside of the constraints of those two limited and limiting options.

I think the United States has a possibility to re-connect to that idealistic passion and at the same time rise to a whole new level of greatness. We have reached the highest level a country can achieve by today's standard. It is like a chef at a five star restaurant who kills himself to retain his standing - there is nowhere else for him to strive towards. How can you keep hitting the same, static level of greatness? The only solution is to raise the bar. Make the expectations even bigger, bolder and more audacious.

I challenge us to create a new definition of greatness. What if we become the country that discovers a solution to this war/no war dilemma? What if we declared that all countries deserve economic prosperity and we realize that this does not conflict with our own economic goals? What if we took our greatness, idealism and passion and mixed it with an understanding, ancient wisdom and a sound analytical plan to create a new level of prosperity for the world?

I know we are a country that can do this. In fact, we must - the world is depending on us.