

SILENT VIGIL FOR THE DEER OF CAYUGA HEIGHTS, NEW YORK

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009 – 7:00 PM EDT/6:00 PM CDT/5:00 PM MDT/4:00 PM PDT (& AZ) – [HTTP://WWW.PEACEANIMAL.COM](http://www.peaceanimal.com)

This is a day of HOPE. At this moment in time, we are one with our friends in attendance at the Cayuga Heights village meeting --- and one with all of the blessed beings --- the Deer of Cayuga Heights --- who live among them. It is a time of TRUST and HOPE as we align our hearts and our thoughts with those at tonight's meeting, standing in solidarity with them and with the Cayuga Heights Deer. We hold the vision for their clarity and focus so that they may use the perfect words to support the Deer. And we know, right here and now, for them, calm hearts, clear heads and centered intention. And that we know that the unity of their thoughts emerges as an articulate voice of compassion.

On this Day of HOPE for the Cayuga Heights Deer, we come together with a singular mission. A particular, heartfelt intention to renew our commitment of support for those who have no voice --- for those who look to us to speak on their behalf --- for those whose eyes touch our hearts and inspire us to be their champions --- the precious Deer who are at risk of losing their lives simply for being and doing that which is their birthright. On this day, we raise our vision and our intention to one of HOPE for these precious beings with whom we share our planet and we hold in the light those who have been silenced despite the endless depths of their diligence.

And as we take a moment to relax and center ourselves we take in a deep breath, filling our lungs with the abundant light and beauty of the many beautiful forms of life that surround us. As we exhale, we release all the stress and tension and worry that sabotages precious space within us that could be filled, instead, with LOVE and PEACE for all life. Again, we breathe in deeply the iridescent silver light of HOPE we intend to share with our fellow creatures --- both animal and human. And as we hold it within for a moment, we imbue the air molecules with our thoughts and intentions of HOPE so that as we slowly release the air back into the whole, our released breath will carry with it our blessing of HOPE, far and wide, on the very next breeze.

And that is our inspiration for this Vigil --- HOPE. For today...and for the countless tomorrows --- may we step more fully into an uncompromised anticipation of positive outcomes --- one where we hold an elevated consciousness of TRUST and HOPE for our beloved Cayuga Heights Deer, and for all animals, as core spiritual values.

Today, right here and right now, we hold the highest vision for the Deer of Cayuga Heights. Knowing that each and every one of them is a unique expression of the light that connects us all, we bless them and know the truth for their safety and wholeness. In particular, on this day, within these moments, we hold a special vision of HOPE for...

Deer all across the country and world, who find themselves facing a similar fate. May they be loved and successfully supported in their own community's respective efforts toward a peaceful and amenable resolution where all life is respected and is afforded the birthright of living, side by side, in PEACE.

Those brother and sister Deer who have already had their lives tragically taken, by similar efforts to eradicate innocent members of creation. May their deaths serve as a beacon to us to bear the mantle of responsibility to do all that we can to save the lives of Deer currently at risk.

And finally ...

For the humans who, knowingly or otherwise, perpetuate activities of wanton destruction, we embrace the highest articulation of HOPE that their hearts and minds are transformed through the inspiration of the animal teachers who lost their very lives so that we might learn. We see the open hearts of humanity newly inspired toward true spiritual stewardship as fellow expressions of the One. And we see an expanded understanding of the intrinsic value of each and every one of life's majestic manifestations as evidenced by a newfound understanding, a deeper and richer level of tolerance toward our fellow animals who may not be exactly like us.

We proclaim this day that the Mayor and Trustees of Cayuga Heights release all intention and surrender all plans to destroy the Deer. We affirm that those who reside outside the circle of compassion surrounding the Deer, shall see through the fear that prompts their desire to needlessly destroy God's innocents and we hold the vision that, through divine enlightenment, this dilemma is fully resolved --- and that the Deer of Cayuga may, once again, live in PEACE.

Beneath all outer appearances we recognize a deep sense of clarity and connection with all life. We dismiss the illusion of separation. In the heart of our hearts, we behold all expressions of life as sacred. The winged ones of the air, the finned ones of the sea, the furred and fleshed ones of the land --- the hooved ones of Cayuga Heights --- and all other magnificent life forms are demonstrations of divine intelligence and we affirm here today that all be held safely in the heart of the ages. The waters of understanding and tolerance cleanse us all and elevate the Deer of Cayuga Heights to a higher place of compassionate acknowledgment in the eyes of the humans with whom they walk the earth and, in particular, those who view them with disdain and intolerance. We see the promise for all Earth's animals of serene and fully expressed lives, free of judgment and violence.

(At this time, if you wish, please take a few moments to affirm your personal intention for the Deer)

As we conclude our Vigil, we hold the highest intention of PEACE for all species and we affirm and know for all humankind, our roles as loving protectors and guardians of all beings. We step humbly into true stewardship, knowing that we all share the experience of being living and divine expressions of life and that there is no separation among us. In this great web of life --- where what we do to one, we do to all --- we bless and acknowledge those leaders with an expanded consciousness of compassion who view all life as interconnected. We set an intention on this day to learn from, follow and support their example. May we, too, be inspired to honor and sustain the intention of this day of peaceful affirmation by seeking ways in which we can be of greater personal service for the Cayuga Heights Deer and for all animals. We claim and pronounce for ourselves, the self-awareness, enlightenment and resolve to make it so.

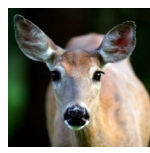
Today...of all days...we stand on the precipice of unprecedented change and from this vantage point, see before us a bridge of HOPE. We know that even the smallest change begins with a single thought. Therefore, we proclaim our intention to choose thoughts of empathy and PEACE and HOPE for the Cayuga Heights Deer and for all of the majestic life forms with whom we share the earth. We affirm, as we go forward in this pioneering work for animals, to choose those thoughts conscientiously and compassionately. We affirm tolerance and understanding and open-mindedness for the Mayor and Trustees of Cayuga Heights, who hold the lives of the Deer in their hands. Today, we conjure a new paradigm by pouring a foundation of HOPE and PEACE to support a new and emerging discipline of compassion. And from that foundation we build of a haven of PEACE and understanding for the beautiful Cayuga Heights Deer.

We are so grateful this day --- grateful to stand alongside each other as pioneers of HOPE and PEACE for the Cayuga Heights Deer. While we may be separated by miles, the unity of our collective intention inspires and unites us. We know that every thought holds within it the power to change the world and we know this day that we have done exactly that by joining ours together to affirm PEACE and HOPE for the beloved Deer of Cayuga Heights and HOPE for those human decision makers who so delicately balance their fate. We also hold gratitude for the hearts and minds that are just beginning to open with a willingness to change. May they be encouraged and unfettered as they choose compassion over cruelty and may we be patient and non-judgmental in all of our interactions, knowing that our life is our message.

And as we stand in the soft glow of this deep gratitude, we release our words of PEACE and HOPE for the Cayuga Heights Deer into that creative medium --- that sacred soil of life which knows only to support and protect and nurture and deliver the seeds of our thoughts. Our hearts are at PEACE within the knowing that our intention is already manifest in the world of effects and that the seeds of our thoughts of HOPE and PEACE have already blossomed by the power of our very word. We join together to bear witness this day to the magnificence of this most exquisite garden. A garden blossoming with flowers of HOPE and PEACE --- for the Cayuga Heights Deer and for those who love them.



We release - we let go - we abundantly know - it is done - and it is so!



IMMEDIATE ACTION ITEMS FOR THE DEER OF CAYUGA HEIGHTS, NEW YORK

The latest news is that the Cayuga Heights trustees are lowering the number of deer they will allow to live to as low as 20 (all of whom will be sterilized), and they want to **speed up the killing process**, killing more deer sooner than their original plan proposed. A reliable source reports that this is due to their desire to save money. They will have to hire a person each year to oversee the process, and if they can kill more deer faster, they can expend less money over time. Their 10-year projection indicated a cost of \$1 million for their deer-killing plan and as a result, raising taxes by 5%. So **this is how they propose reducing costs — kill more deer more quickly and allow fewer to live**, as sterilization is more expensive than killing. Meanwhile, far cheaper non-lethal approaches to reducing human-deer conflicts exist, and are proven to be successful (see <http://www.cayugadeer.org/alternatives.htm>) Yet, the mayor and trustees will consider saving the taxpayers money by trying alternative approaches, nor have they indicated a willingness to consider changing the fencing ordinance to allow residents to adequately protect their gardens. Read the latest Ithaca Journal article here: <http://www.theithacajournal.com/article/20090914/NEWS01/909140388/1126/news/Cayuga+Heights+wants+to+speed+culing+process>

It's important to understand that **this is essentially an extermination plan, and the massacre they are proposing — to be carried out in residents' back yards -- will be violent, bloody and a disgrace to our community.**

If you live in the Ithaca area, The trustees will meet at 7 PM Monday, September 21st, at Marcham Hall, 836 Hanshaw Rd. (across from community corners). Protesters will assemble 30 minutes before the meeting. To all who protested last month, THANK YOU! PLEASE join us again this coming Monday. If you have been receiving these emails and not yet participated, **NOW is the time to become active!** Doing nothing will result in the death of hundreds of animals and the tacit acceptance of having firearms discharged near homes and roadways, endangering our community and turning Cayuga Heights into a killing field for wildlife. **EVERY PERSON COUNTS!** Please don't turn your back now. Your community, and the innocents who live amongst us, depend on you to show up. And don't forget to spread the word!

What YOU Can Do --- *Immediately:*

1. Attach the cayugadeer.org Facebook page link to your own Facebook post asking all of your FB friends to get involved.
2. Take a moment to Tweet about this on Twitter --- and post on your MySpace page. Do whatever you can to spread the word and ask your contacts and friends to do the same. Use the opening paragraph of this Action Item sheet to share information with friends. Sign up for email alerts at: <http://www.cayugadeer.org/#ActionItems>
3. Visit and sign our Change.org petition and send the link to friends:
http://animalrights.change.org/actions/view/shot_for_a_tulip_say_no_to_cayuga_heights_nys_deer-killing_plan
4. Make a call or send an email to Cayuga Heights Mayor Jim Gilmore and the Trustees. Tell them why you think their deer-killing plan is unsafe, unethical, unrealistic, and unnecessary. Each of the individuals below can be reached by US mail at 836 Hanshaw Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850 and by phone at (607) 257-5536. Click here for names and email contact info: <http://www.cayugadeer.org/#ActionItems>
5. Write letters to the editor. Find contact information here: <http://www.cayugadeer.org/#ActionItems>
6. Post a Conscience Card on your Facebook, MySpace or Twitter pages, or add to your blog, website or email signature. For samples of Conscience Cards and directions on how you can take the additional step to have them link to your social networking pages or email addresses visit: <http://www.cayugadeer.org/conscience/gilmore.htm>
7. Got business card stock? Download a Cayuga Deer information card and distribute to friends. Card templates can be found in the RESOURCES section at: <http://www.peaceanimal.com>
8. If you live in Ithaca, or the surrounding area, please attend the next village meeting at 7:00 pm, Monday, September 21st. For location information, click here: <http://www.cayugadeer.org/#ActionItems>
9. Keep visiting the <http://www.cayugadeer.org> website for updates.
10. Educate others --- share this information with friends, family and others who can help save the Deer of Cayuga Heights.

THE DEER NEED YOUR HELP. EVERY ACTION MATTERS. WON'T YOU HELP?