

*Man may penetrate the outer reaches of the universe, he may solve the very secret of eternity itself but for me, the ultimate human experience is to witness the flawless execution of the hit-and-run.*

--Branch Rickey

Dear Friends,  
Happy Earth Day!

It's Spring, and the crack of the bat is heard throughout the land--at least around our house, with my son, an ace pitcher with the JV team at Bellingham High School, and my husband Scott, his long-time coach and number one fan. Not being a sports-minded person, this has been an adjustment over the years. I've been working on a song for a long time -- finally got it down. Here are my thoughts on the subject. I don't have it recorded yet, but maybe some day.

Coach's Wife

©Linda Allen, 2007

I am the coach's wife, it's not  
The life I would have chosen  
But here I am at 42 degrees  
Sitting in the bleachers, leanin' on my knees  
Hopin' my boy gets a hit, oh, please  
Oh, please, oh, please, oh, please

Little did I know when I married my husband  
Underneath the poet and the peaceful warrior  
Lurked the heart of a super-sized jock  
Who rocked our baby to baseball talk  
Presented him a bat before he could walk

I like to hike and maybe some biking  
Theater and concerts, poetry dates  
But fate just laughed and gave me him  
With his trickster eyes and Saturday grin  
And it's off to the ball park once again

Hum, batter, batter, Hum, batter, batter  
Give it a ride, give it a ride  
Find a gap, sit back and drive it  
Slide, slide, slide

I'm in love with my boys of summer  
My boys of spring and fall and winter  
Oh, my God, it's a suicide squeeze

My boy's in the middle, it's 42 degrees  
The coach, his dad, is on his knees  
Oh, please, oh, please, oh, please

So here's what's coming up. Below I've listed upcoming concerts and presentations of *Pilgrimage: Journey to the Heart of Israel and Palestine*. On my web site you'll see a description of that presentation, some new songs, and the itinerary updates will be there soon. Over the next few months I'll be in **SAN JOSE, OAKLAND** and **BERKELEY** (next weekend), **PORTLAND, BELLINGHAM, SPOKANE, SEABECK, POULSBO** and **BEND**.

I'm also offering classes, private instruction, and now that I'm an ordained interfaith minister, I'm happy to help people plan celebrations and rituals for weddings, memorials, coming of age, births, and other life ceremonies. CDs are available on my web site, and sales help keep me doing what I do.

Scott recently found a great Greek Salad recipe, and made some revisions. We've fixed it several times -- it is delicious! So after the itinerary, you'll find the recipe.

May this beautiful Spring wrap you in her lovely arms and breathe her sweet breath into your life.

Linda

#### **ITINERARY:**

#### **Pilgrimage: Journey to the Heart of Israel and Palestine.**

*In October of 2006, Linda was invited to the Middle East to share and teach peace songs to children and youth. Through song, story and photos, Linda shares the journey and asks the question: How do we respond? How do we move from compassion to passionate action?*

#### **Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> SAN JOSE 7:00 PM**

Concert and *Pilgrimage* presentation celebrating Diana Padilla's birthday! Open to the public. \$10.00

LOCATION: Brian's Welding, at the shop  
197 Ryland St. San Jose

7:00 PM for food, meet and greet, 8:00 PM Concert followed by presentation

CONTACT INFO: (408) 275-1960 Brian and Diana Padilla (home)  
(925) 383-3645 Marion Radford (cell)  
(408) 234-2141 Brian cell

Please RSVP so we can get a count for seating, food and beverages.

#### **Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> SAN JOSE**

Vocal workshop - private

**Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> BERKELEY/OAKLAND**

**10:00 AM St. John's Presbyterian Church**, 2727 College Avenue

Linda will sing a few songs during the service, then will present

*Pilgrimage* at approximately **11:30 AM**.

Phone 510-845-6830 (church) or Fred Harvey, 510-845-4597.

**7:30 La Pena Cultural Center**, 3105 Shattuck Avenue

\$10.00 donation. *Pilgrimage* and brief concert.

Sponsored by Eastbay Friends of Sabeel, Middle East Children's Alliance, Fr. Bill O'Donnell Social Justice Committee of St. Joseph the Worker, and La Pena Cultural Center.

For more information: 510-849-2568.

[www.lapena.org](http://www.lapena.org)

**Friday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. PORTLAND**

Benefit for Urban Spirituality Center.

*Pilgrimage* and Benefit Concert

Gathering at 6:30, Music Begins at 7p.m.

St. Clare Parish Hall,

8535 SW 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. (off Barber Blvd.)

503-241-1751 for information

Donation: \$25.00 to \$50.00

**Saturday, May 5 PORTLAND 7:30 PM**

Benefit Concert and *Pilgrimage*.

Portland Mennonite Church 1312 SE 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Portland

(corner of SE 35<sup>th</sup> and SE Main). The co-sponsors are Portland

Mennonite Church, Friends of Sabeel, Lutherans for Justice in the Holy Land – a

witness of Central Lutheran Church, and Episcopal Peace Fellowship. It will

benefit Friends of Sabeel. Its free of cost with a

donation asked for Sabeel.

For more information: 503-236-4058

**Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 3:00 TUALATIN**

The Many Ways of Peace concert, with

Tualatin High School Crimsonaires

Tualatin Presbyterian Church,

9230 SW Siletz Drive.

Information: 503-692-7034.

**Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> BELLINGHAM**

*Pilgrimage* slideshow and brief concert sponsored by Whatcom Peace & Justice Center and United Ministries in Higher Education host singer/songwriter Linda Allen. Please join us at WPJC, 100 E. Maple Street for a 6pm potluck and 7pm show.

**Saturday, May 19 EASTSIDE**

Concert and *Pilgrimage* presentation sponsored by Faith in Action. For more information, Leonard Eiger at [faithinaction-sumc@comcast.net](mailto:faithinaction-sumc@comcast.net). Or phone 425-888-4652

**Thursday, June 21 SPOKANE**

Details to follow.

**Wednesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> EVERETT**

*Pilgrimage* presentation for women's group. Private.

**Friday, June 29<sup>th</sup> through Monday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> SEABECK Fellowship of Reconciliation's Annual Conference**

Linda will be presenting *Pilgrimage*, and providing some musical support. For more information: Jean Buskin, 206-784-9988 or email [bb369@scn.org](mailto:bb369@scn.org) One of Linda's very favorite conferences! Great workshops!

**July 19-22 OAKLAND**

*Creation Spirituality conference:*  
*Going Deeper: Authentic Spiritual Community.*  
Matthew Fox is the keynote speaker. Great sessions and speakers! Linda will be helping out with music.  
[www.creationspirituality.info](http://www.creationspirituality.info)

**Saturday, August 4<sup>th</sup> POULSBO**

Concert to celebrate 30 years of Ground Zero. Sponsored by the Ground Zero Center for Non-violent Action Contact: Dave and Anne Hall <dchall@wolfenet.com>

**October 12th BEND**

Details to follow.

**CHOPPED GREEK SALAD** (from Food and Wine Annual Cookbook)

Total: 25 minutes, 4 servings

Use dried Greek oregano in this vinegary salad. Found at specialty food markets, it has a lovely floral flavor.

1/2 lb. green beans, halved crosswise.

3 T red wine vinegar

1 garlic clove

1/2 small shallot, chopped  
1/2 tsp. Dijon mustard  
1/2 tsp. dried Greek oregano  
1/2 tsp. fresh thyme  
1 large basil leaf  
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil  
Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper  
1 lb. grape tomatoes, halved  
1/2 small red onion, halved lengthwise and very thinly sliced crosswise  
1/4 lb. Greek feta cheese, crumbled (1 cup)

1. In a medium pot of boiling salted water, cook the green beans until they are just tender, about 4 minutes. Drain the green beans and rinse them under cold water; pat the beans dry.

2. In a blender, combine the red wine vinegar, with the garlic clove, shallot, Dijon, mustard, oregano, thyme and basil and puree until smooth. With the machine on, slowly add the olive oil. Season the vinaigrette with salt and pepper.

3. In a large bowl, combine the blanched green beans with the halved grape tomatoes, sliced red onion, and crumbled feta cheese. Toss the salad with the vinaigrette and serve immediately.--Michael Psilakis

Scott and I like to add Greek olives, and I leave out the onions.

Linda AllenOctober Rose Productions  
360-734-7979  
<http://www.lindasongs.com>