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“There is no such thing as objective powerlessness. Our belief that we are powerless is a sure sign that we have been duped by the powers.” ~Walter Wink

The Walter and June Keeler Wink Fellowship Fellowship of Reconciliation-USA (FOR-USA)

The Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) envisions a world of justice, dignity, peace, and freedom. As an interfaith organization, FOR-USA’s mission is to organize, train, and grow a diverse movement of people of conscience committed to using the transformative power of nonviolence to create peace, end structures of violence and war, and build the beloved community.

Longtime FOR member Walter Wink (1935 – 2012) was an internationally known author, biblical scholar, peacemaker, risk-taker, and pastor with an abiding commitment to what he called the "Third Way" – the way of active nonviolent resistance to oppressive powers. He edited *Peace Is the Way: Writings on Nonviolence from the Fellowship of Reconciliation*, which captures a century of wisdom on nonviolence. He was a pioneer in participatory bible study methods through which he explored the biblical themes of powers and principalities, and the teachings of Jesus on nonviolence. Walter was the author of 16 books and hundreds of scholarly articles and was beloved for using accessible language in his preaching, teaching, and writing. He wanted to engage with 'ordinary, everyday people' whose lives and faith he believed held the power to transform the world.

Walter and June Keeler Wink, a dancer, artist, and his wife of 33 years, lectured and led nonviolence workshops in what was East Germany; and in Northern Ireland, South Korea, Palestine, Mexico, New Zealand, Chile, West Germany, Scotland, and England. Together they led countless people through encounters with sacred texts designed to transform their faith and activism. Through body movement, meditation, and art, June invited the transformative integration of body, mind, and spirit. Walter's Socratic dialogue about sacred texts and June's body movement work prepared a generation of peace leaders, pastors, and scholar-activists to engage the left and right sides of the brain as



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they pursued peace and justice. June is still actively creating art reflective of her contributions to these workshops that inspired people to connect with their full humanity, to *“Throw away the labels. Take off the leash.”* Together, their work to integrate theological understanding with embodied courage and imagination prepared people to

engage in nonviolent struggles for peace. Their leadership in active nonviolent resistance; and June’s living example of the use of art to spread a message of peace inspired FOR-USA to create the **FOR Walter Wink and June Keener Wink Fellowship (Wink Fellowship)**.

This year-long fellowship will be awarded to a rabbinical, ijazah, divinity, monastical, etc. student enrolled in focused on nonviolence; or an emerging leader whose work can create the kind of change that challenges the powers. The Wink Fellowship was launched in January 2021. In May 2023, it will welcome its third fellow.

“In 1989, thirteen nations comprising 1,695,000 people experienced nonviolent revolutions that succeeded beyond anyone's wildest expectations . . . If we add all the countries touched by major nonviolent actions in our century (the Philippines, South Africa . . . the independence movement in India . . .), the figure reaches 3,337,400,000, a staggering 65% of humanity! All this in the teeth of the assertion, endlessly repeated, that nonviolence doesn't work in the 'real' world.” ~ Walter Wink

For promising students, FOR will partner with the school where they are enrolled to support learning opportunities and to connect students to grassroots peace and justice leaders across the country.

For emerging leaders, the Fellowship can be used to directly support the work of activist-scholars, activist-religious leaders, and organizers pursuing paths to peace through transformative nonviolent strategies and campaigns.

All Wink Fellows will be supported to expand or deepen their work in the field; and/or advance a specific idea, plan, or campaign for creating change. Additionally, Fellows will

have the opportunity to leverage local, regional, national, and international FOR networks to elevate their work.

The Wink Fellowship is intended to inspire new generations to carry on the spirit of the work to which Walter Wink and June Keener Wink devoted their lives.

The Wink Fellow will partner with FOR to pursue agreed-upon goals and activities that further the Fellow's learning, leadership development, and/or work/practice. The Fellowship is also intended to be a forward-leaning vehicle to identify, cultivate, and support future-oriented leaders witnessing of the "the power of the Spirit who constantly challenges us to transcend the present order and to win victories, large and small." The Wink Fellowship will be awarded without restriction to particular faith traditions or spiritual practice. Fellows will be carefully selected by FOR and a Wink Fellowship Committee (and in the case of divinity students, their respective schools) based upon the promise of their work to advance the pursuit of peace through justice and the transformative power of nonviolence.

Consistent with Walter and June's prophetic and transformative work, the one-year Fellowship will provide the FOR Wink Fellow with the following:

- A \$25,000 award;
- Opportunities to leverage local, regional, and national FOR networks to elevate their work and ideas;
- A platform to present their work to international audiences; and, opportunities to engage and learn from sister movements; and,
- Support through FOR to undertake new aspects of their work or deepen work already underway.



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The Wink Fellow will produce a body of work (i.e., blogs, articles, reports, visuals, interviews, speeches, talks, etc.) and/or programs that serve to deepen and further their faith work and leadership and engagement with beloved community.

“Evil can be opposed without being mirrored. Oppressors can be resisted without being emulated. Enemies can be neutralized without being destroyed.”
~Walter Wink

The Fellow's work will be featured on FOR's platforms to advance the pursuit of peace and justice through transformative nonviolence and shape local and national dialogues on reconciliation. We are looking forward to building the kind of relationships with our Fellows that will inform our strategic thinking, engagement, and initiatives aimed at advancing social change across the country.

We hope that the FOR Wink Fellowship will serve as a reflection of our commitment to identifying and advancing rising leaders for a just and peaceful world.

The Fellowship Selection Committee - scholars, activists, faith leaders - and FOR National Council, staff, and team, will review and make Fellowship decisions.

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Candidates for the FOR Wink Fellowship can be nominated or apply directly. The application can be found at bit.ly/winkfellow or via the QR code below.



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For more information, or for help accessing the application, send an email to arielgold@forusa.org.

Application deadline: March 2024

