

STANDING UP FOR JUSTICE BY PATRICIA LOMDEN, PHILADELPHIA

The youth of the world are the future! We must all fight to make the 21st century the century of peace and the end of suffering! The 20th century has been the century of war, violence and devastation. That ends today with me! I will not be swayed by greed, selfishness and unkindness. I will fight and encourage love! Encourage, encourage, encourage! I will walk the city streets with confidence and hope. I will consider each obstacle I encounter as part of my growth, my humanity. I will learn, and use my knowledge to help others, not to look down on them, because learners become teachers. I will go on and keep my faith! I will bring my faith into other people's lives! They will become happy. I'll see to being the source of everyone's happiness that I know. After I have given them the gift of pride, they will make other people happy! I will see each and every future youth of the late 21st century grow in a world where guns are outlawed, drugs are shunned and violence is the most "un-cool" thing in every child's heart. I will never give in to the temptation of hate, but give in to the temptation of love. I will know what to say when someone asks, "Want to hurt somebody?" I'll say, "No. I want to be somebody."

People are greedy for material things, things that we must leave and that mean nothing when we die. Let's leave a legacy behind that says we were born with a mission. A mission to free everyone from the chains of cruelty and malice. Yes, a mission to represent all the elderly and youth who have made this world better. Icons of life! We thank you. But there is still more to be done. And we are here. We are here for ourselves and everyone else. Take action my sisters and brothers of America and everyone in other parts of the world! Take action now, while we are young! This is the chance of a lifetime. Make way for us, 21st century, the century of winning! Victory over violence!