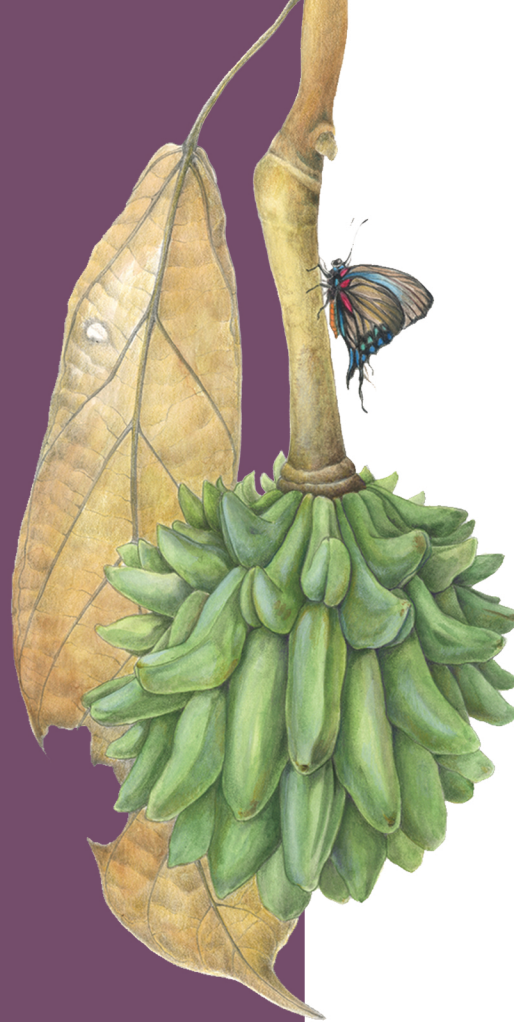


*the*  
**LOVE  
HOPE &  
PEACE  
JOURNAL**



# W E L C O M E

Welcome to **The Love, Hope & Peace Journal**. Does it sound a bit airy, dreamy or even hippiesque? Yes, it probably does, and it does so with pride. The Hippies in the 1960s were onto something which is essential to humankind and, indeed, to the planet we live on. Their core beliefs in the power and absolute necessity of love, tolerance, compassion, hope, dreams and peace represent a truth that cannot and should not ever be forgotten or ignored.

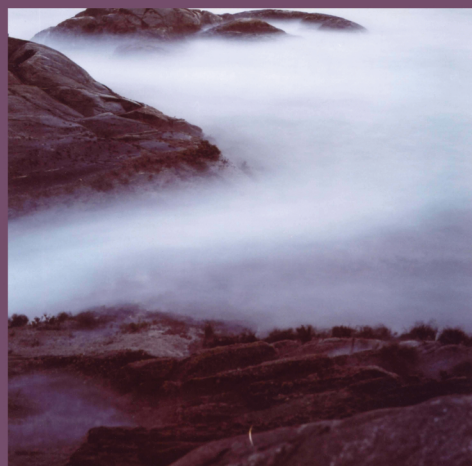
This Journal was conceived the day after Donald Trump won the Presidential election in America on November the 8th, 2016. It was a response to a desperate need to do something positive and meaningful, amidst events that felt threatening and incomprehensible. After the initial shock settled, however, it still seemed like a good idea and, by the way, I believe that acts borne out of desperation can sometimes lead to powerful and purposeful creations.

**The Love, Hope & Peace Journal** is an attempt to share and to celebrate the essence of love, hope and peace; to provide some refuge, solace, truth, beauty and meaning to its readers in a time full of uncertainties and anti-social messages. Through creativity and expression, we can reach beyond all the noise of the world. We can set ourselves free.

I am proud to present this first edition; a compilation of outstanding articles, art, poetry, reflections, a serial novel, photographs, cartoons and drawings, arts and crafts. The contributors come from many different countries, cultures and disciplines. They have all shared what they are most talented at, opened their hearts, expressed their inner-most thoughts, fears and desires and helped to spread some light and hope. They are also asking some profound questions of humanity.

Thank you and happy reading/viewing!

*Sophie Clausen*



Cover photo *Ryvarden II* by Mark Thompson, British Artist, Photographer and Composer living in Sweden. Mark studied Fine Art at the Slade School of Fine Art in London and has since has won multiple awards. Mark's work is held in many collections throughout the world and he exhibits in Scandinavia, Europe and America. See more of Mark Thompson's work on his website [www.markthompsonartist.com](http://www.markthompsonartist.com)