

# NETWORK NEWS



## Count the Ways We are Building a Peaceful International Community

*Sheila Spear, Treasurer of WNPJ*

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.” To these words of Margaret Mead’s I would add that with collaboration between small groups, such as within the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice, that change will surely come even faster.

It is all too easy in the ‘peace and justice’ movement to feel overwhelmed by how much there is to do, and to get caught up in the urgency of our own mission. One of the joys of working for the Network is to realize just how many people are working towards goals we all care about. Singly we haven’t a chance to carry the weight of all that ails this world, but collectively we can move mountains, through explicitly acknowledging each other’s work.

You may remember that early in 2005 we set out to define a Wisconsin Peace Platform. One thought behind the project was to find ways to express the collective

See **Building Peace**, page 4

## “Bring Our Troops Home” - Referendum Movement Sweeps Wisconsin

*Steve Burns, Program Coordinator of the  
Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice*

From LaCrosse in the west to Algoma in the north, the campaign to place “Bring Our Troops Home” referenda on local ballots in Wisconsin has caught fire across our state.

The referendum campaign began in March 2005 as a project of a WNPJ member group, the Wisconsin Green Party, and over the summer, citizens in more than 30 towns, villages and cities across Wisconsin started collecting signatures from their neighbors. Twenty-five of those campaigns have resulted in sufficient signatures to win a place on the April 4, 2006 ballot. (see p.5). In addition, citizens in Newport succeeded in placing a referendum on their local ballot through a vote of their town board.

In Madison, more than 350 volunteers helped to collect a total of 18,911 signatures, more than 6,000 above the number required by the city clerk. In the tiny town of Exeland in Sawyer County, 12 signatures were required - and were collected by Peace North member Jeff Ames in a single day.

WNPJ member groups like Peace North and Concerned Citizens of Newport and WNPJ individual members like Chuck Baynton of Whitefish Bay were key players in the referendum campaigns.

See **Referendum**, page 5

## Letter from the Chair

*Alfred Meyer, Chair of WNPJ*

Why has the peace and justice movement here in Wisconsin and around the world known so much more about the situation in Iraq than the purveyors of the war seem to know?

How did we know that there were no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, that Saddam Hussein was not connected with Bin Laden and Al Qaeda, and that invading a sovereign country would yield bloodshed, chaos and animosity?

And how did the United States Government, you know, the one which is of the people, by the people and for the people, develop an international network of torture and detention outside of national and international law and jurisdiction?

While we answer these important and disquieting questions, and work to shape

See **Letter from Chair**, page 11

### What’s Inside This Issue

- p.2 Calendar of Events*
- p.3 Orchids and Onions &  
Eyes Wide Open*
- p.6 Nuclear Free World*
- p.7 SOA Vigil and Tribute to  
Sister Mo*
- p.8 Peace Lights - Radio  
Driftless*
- p.9 Peace Studies in WI*
- p.10 Bits and Peaces and P & J  
Resources*
- p.11 News of the Network*



The Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice facilitates activities, cooperation and communication among Wisconsin organizations and individuals working toward the creation of a world free from violence and injustice.

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E-mail: [info@wnpj.org](mailto:info@wnpj.org)

Mail: 122 State Street, #402

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# WNPJ

\* JANUARY \*

Throughout January and February – **"The History of Art in the Peace Movement" with the Bradford, England Traveling Display-Waupaca.** Chez Marche Cafe, 108 S. Main. 715-256-2672 <http://chezmarchecafe.blogspot.com>. Bradford is known in England as the "City of Peace" because there are over 35 nationalities co-existing in the city. Co-sponsored by the Waupaca Community Arts Board and People for Peace. No charge. Contact: Marci Reynolds at [baba@charter.net](mailto:baba@charter.net).

1/14 Sat 7:30 pm **Annual Ceili for Peace - Milwaukee.** Irish Cultural Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wis. Ave. Irish music and dance benefit for Peace Education Project of Peace Action. Music by Ceol Cairde. Donation of \$6-8 with 2 nonperishable food items for Casa Maria. Info? [peace@peaceactionwi.org](mailto:peace@peaceactionwi.org).

1/14 – 1/16 Sat – Mon **Living Wage Days – Statewide.** 'Let Justice Roll' - Living Wage Campaign is urging religious bodies and community organizations to hold community events to inspire, educate and mobilize communities to support and act on behalf of low wage working people and their families. Contact [kpennings@wichurches.org](mailto:kpennings@wichurches.org) of the Wisconsin Council of Churches.

1/15 -16 Sun – Mon **The Birthday and National Holiday for Martin Luther King, Jr. – Statewide.** Check with your local peace and justice organization for details.

1/15 Sun 4 – 9 pm **Fundraiser for George Martin's International Peace Work – Milwaukee.** Club Timbuktu, 520 E. Center. Contact: [peace@peaceactionwi.org](mailto:peace@peaceactionwi.org).

# Winter

1/16 Mon **"City-County Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Observance" –Madison.** In the new Capitol Theater in the Overture Center for the Arts on State Street. Contact: [bboehme@chorus.net](mailto:bboehme@chorus.net)

1/19 Thurs 7 pm **Nuclear Wisconsin, Past, Present and Future - Wisconsin Dells.** At the Hilton Garden Inn, 101 E. Hiawatha Drive (between the Del Bar and Houlihan's on Hwy 12). The Dells Country Progressive Voices will present a program with Alfred Myer of Physicians for Social Responsibility. Contact Kathy Dakter 608- 254-6022.

1/26 Thurs 12 noon - 12:45 pm **Women In Black Weekly Peace Vigil - LaCrosse.** North entrance to the Cartwright Center on the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse campus (near the traffic circle). Every Thursday while classes are in session. Contact: Deborah Buffton [buffton.debo@uwlax.edu](mailto:buffton.debo@uwlax.edu) 1

1/29 Sun 6:30 – 8 pm **Winter Reading Group on Religious Fundamentalism - Madison.** At the UW Lutheran Center at Mills St. & University Avenue. The primary text will be Karen Armstrong's acclaimed book **The Battle For God: A History of Fundamentalism, ch.6-7** (Ballantine Books 2000, 2001 pbk), which examines Jewish, Muslim, and Christian extremism. Free and open to all. Cofacilitated by Peregrine Forum and the UW Lutheran Center. For more info call 608-442-8399.

\*FEBRUARY\*

2/2 Thurs 7pm **"History of Israeli-Arab/Palestinian Conflict," with Nathan Godley, UW-Parkside, Racine.** Olympia Brown UU Church, College and 7th St. Sponsored by the Racine Peace and Justice Coalition. Info: [dkinch@rootcom.net](mailto:dkinch@rootcom.net).

# Calendar

2/4 Sat 8:30 - 12 noon **21st Annual Catherine Conroy Legislative Breakfast - Milwaukee.** At the Alverno College Conference Center, 3400 S. 43<sup>rd</sup> Street. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Women's Network. Focus on "Rich Women, Poor Women: Strategies to Bridge the Gap." Contact: [wiwomen@execpc.com](mailto:wiwomen@execpc.com).

2/5 Sun 1-4pm pm **MFIS Capitol Reception for International Students and Guests - Madison.** State Capitol Building, Senate Parlor Reception area. Tour at 2 pm. Contact Madison Friends of International Students volunteer, Jane Kessenich at 608-836-8429.

2/9 - 2/10 Thurs - Fri **Rural Life Gathering 2006 - Dubuque, IA.** At the Shalom Center of Mt. St. Francis. Rev. Lange, of the Oblate Ecological Initiative, will lead off the annual gathering of Churches' Center for Land and People. He will provide practical direction on starting a Community Supported Agriculture farm or garden on a religious property. Contact Tony ends at [cclp@tds.net](mailto:cclp@tds.net); 608 831-9319.

2/12 Sun 7 - 9 pm **Valentines Benefit for Peace Action WI - Milwaukee.** The Coffee House, 19th St. and WI Ave. \$10 suggested. With songstress Robin Pluer and friends "Love Not War". [peace@peaceactionwi.org](mailto:peace@peaceactionwi.org)

2/18 Sat 9 - 12 noon **"The Myths About Islam" - Racine.** At the Racine Dominican Retreat Program, located at Siena Center, 5635 Erie Street. Presented by **Mary Ann Pevas, OP.** Cost: \$20 (includes \$5 non-refundable deposit). Contact Sr. Rita Lui at 262-639-4100 x1230.

2/25 Sat 1 to 4 pm **WNPJ Executive Committee Meeting.** Place to be determined. Contact: [info@wnpj.org](mailto:info@wnpj.org) or 608-250-9240.



## AN ORCHID TO

**The Wisconsin delegation** that crossed the line at the School of the Americas, Nov. 2005: **Jerry Zawada, Del Schwaller, Scott Dempsey, John LaFarge, Jane Hoskins....and to Fred Brancel,** our faithful WNPJ volunteer.

**Senator Russ Feingold** for his steadfast opposition to the Patriot Act. Starting as a lone voice of opposition, Senator Feingold built a coalition of more than 40 senators to uphold a filibuster of a bill that would have made the Patriot Act permanent.



## AN ONION TO

**The School of the Americas (WHINSEC)** for their transparent efforts to gain credibility by appointing an "advisory panel" which included Bishop Robert Morlino of the Catholic Diocese of Madison.

**Wisconsin's legislators** for spreading weapons ever wider, with their votes to pass a "Concealed Carry" bill allowing Wisconsinites to carry loaded guns in public places.

## Eyes Wide Open – Wisconsin

*"An exhibit that speaks directly to our hearts and reminds us of the human cost of war."*



46 pairs of empty combat boots, tagged with the names of Wisconsin soldiers who died in the Iraq war, were on display in Janesville, in Platteville and in Madison in November, together with a visual representation of thousands of Iraqi civilians who have died during the war in Iraq. Today the number of Wisconsin deaths in Iraq is higher and growing. For each death it is estimated that seven Wisconsin soldiers have been seriously injured. Many peace organizations collaborated to bring this exhibit to Wisconsin, through the American Friends Service Committee.

The Eyes Wide Open display is still available to groups who would like to raise awareness about the human and social costs of the Iraq war and to promote peace in their communities. The space for the exhibit should be an area that has high foot traffic and is clearly visible. There is a small fee for hosting the exhibit, which covers transportation and handouts.

To reserve a date for the "Eyes" project in your community, please contact Sue Nelson, [snelson@habiba.org](mailto:snelson@habiba.org) or 608-741-3764.

**Building Peace** from front page

impact of all that we are doing, to combine under a few simple statements the all-encompassing nature of our vision of a just and peaceful world, and the work we are doing to build it. We initially identified five goals, or planks, fundamental to our peace platform. The five planks are:

- International cooperation, justice and equality
- A fair and sustainable economy
- A non-violent society
- A truly democratic society
- A peaceable and safe environment

Think of these primarily as ways to organize our thinking and our talking about what we are doing, so that we can speak more loudly and with a collective voice. None of these areas is mutually exclusive, and many member organizations work across the board, or on many aspects at the same time. But we intended to define each separately so that we could comfortably speak to the whole of the task. To quote the President, who seems to think this is a mark of special distinction, we are all “working hard”, but it can be difficult to see how our collaborative efforts add up. So we would like to encourage each and everyone of you to let us know what your group is doing on the ground, in relation to each of these five planks of our movement.

As part of the process I took a look at the goals and purposes of WNPJ member organizations to see if we could develop a clear snapshot of our collective projects. We plan to include articles on all five planks in future newsletters, and we invite your assistance in helping us, both by filling in the details - so that we can speak to the world more loudly about our activities, and in assessing our work - looking especially for areas that are missing; elements for a complete peace and justice plan. As a first effort, here is what I found that seems to encompass our work towards International cooperation.

**Peace Plank #1: International cooperation, justice and equality**

It will come as no surprise that U.S. military activism abroad is a major target for

WNPJ members' activism. From group statements we can assert that WNPJ member organizations and individuals are working towards an end to war and militarization, whether the war is in Iraq specifically, or, to quote one member group, ....“whichever war we are currently engaged in”. From Washington Island and Madeline Island to Sauk Prairie and Platteville, from the Northwoods and Red Cedar to Rock County and Racine, peace activists are expressing their opposition to war and calling for the withdrawal of military and military support personnel from occupied countries.

Some organizations, such as Stop the War, and Bring the Troops Home Now, have a clearly defined target, as do those who have rebuilt the draft counseling network, or have developed the movement to counter in-school recruitment by the military. Others focus on weapons systems, from the abolition of nuclear weapons worldwide and ending weapons manufacturing in Wisconsin, to the elimination of land mines and the implementation of landmine clearance projects. For others, the task of ending war includes working to ensure the mental and physical well being of our troops when they return from war zones, and for their successful reintegration into a non-militarized society. And for groups such as the School of Americas Watch, the focus is on protesting the training in torture and oppressive techniques which we are spreading to governments and their military and police forces in other lands.

A different orientation is taken by the ‘peace-builders’, whose efforts go towards developing an international governmental structure through the United Nations and the International Courts. United Nations Associations and Citizens for Global Solutions chapters, for example, raise awareness of all that is being done and can be done towards developing a legal structure

to bind nations in collaboration. Efforts may focus on building people-to-people connections, and there are those whose attention is focused on particular trouble spots. The International Committee for the Peace Council, for example, brings world religious leaders and local community members together in some of the most difficult arenas of inter-communal violence.

Other Network member groups provide support, through direct peace missions and aid projects, for citizens of Central America, Colombia, Nicaragua, Cuba, the Middle East, Palestine, and Vietnam, to name just a few. The sister-city groups bring education and information back to our communities, keeping us all aware of the suffering and exploitation that is happening, sometimes in our name. Returned Peace Corps Volunteers use their experience in developing countries to build support for aid work and mutual understanding in all areas. Madison Friends of International Students encourages Madison area families to befriend some of the three thousand international students at the UW-Madison. All are examples of bridging the gulf of misunderstanding and confusion that plagues public debate about people and places outside of our borders.

Some groups are new; others have been around for many years, such as the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), which recently celebrated its 90th birthday. Some use performance to spread the message: Grandmothers for Peace and Madtown Liberty Players, for example, as well as the many fine singers and musicians who help us through with music and song. But all are engaged, in one way or another, in helping people in Wisconsin to become world citizens, to think globally, promote human rights and safety in foreign relations, and have an understanding of the interdependence of our actions and choices in the world community.

See **Building Peace**, page 5

**Building Peace** from page 4

In conclusion, our work towards international cooperation encompasses both opposing wars and militarization on the one hand and building international institutions and people-to-people understanding on the other. On any one day, dozens of us are on the street or at our computers, or meeting with people at home or abroad, busy building this cooperative world.

**Do we have blind spots?**

I hope the above brief account has demonstrated that we are not short of ways of working for peace, but it is always helpful to ask ourselves: are there areas which we are omitting? Perhaps we are not being vocal enough about the torture that our government continues to carry out, despite the almost unanimous rejection, even in the Senate, against these practices. Perhaps there are wars being carried out in our name to which too few of us are paying attention – e.g. Colombia. Are we sufficiently aware of the total impact of the armaments industry and its role in making war?

As I conclude this exercise, it appears to me that Plank One, as it stands, refers to Opposition to War more than it does to cooperation, justice and equality. With apologies to those for whom international cooperation is the focus, perhaps we should be making more noise in this area. And I suspect that our work towards ‘equality and justice’ may become clearer when we look at the economy, including fair trade.

If you have thoughts and reactions to this, please do write to WNPJ and tell us. The purpose of the activity is to stimulate discussion, and invite input into this attempt to speak more loudly about our work.

**Statewide targets for 2006.**

Ending the war, countering military recruitment, and counseling those who may be facing a draft are and will continue to be primary focus targets during 2006. But are there other specific ways we can collaborate across the state? One way is to support the “Bring Our Troops Home” Referendum, which will be on

the ballot in nearly 30 Wisconsin towns and cities on April 4, 2006. There are some potential areas of state legislation that we need to be alert to, such as a bill that attempts to end restrictions on building new nuclear reactors in Wisconsin. Other suggestions for the Network to highlight have included supporting a Wisconsin Department of Peace, and the work of the Mayors for Peace. Do you know where your mayor or city leaders stand in relation to peace? At the national level we need to ensure that our federal government abides by its obligations under international law, such as the Geneva Convention, and also to fund the US share of the UN Peacekeeping assignments in places such as Darfur.

Others? Do let us know if you have suggestions.

And keep in mind: this is only one of the areas that Network members are busy with. **Next time: a fair and sustainable economy.**

*Sheila Spear, officer for WNPJ, can be reached at [sspear@wisc.edu](mailto:sspear@wisc.edu) or 608-835-6594.*

**Referendum** from front page

Peace activists hope to use the local referenda as a spur to local dialogue about the costs – both human and financial – of the Iraq war. The fact that referenda will be taking place in many areas of the state – including many traditionally conservative areas – ensures that a strong vote for “Troops Home” will have an impact on the Wisconsin congressional delegation as they seek re-election in 2006.

In response to a campaign by Milwaukee-based Peace Action (another WNPJ member group!) the Milwaukee city council voted to place a “Troops Home” referendum on the November 2006 ballot. After the April vote, organizers hope to move the referendum campaigns on to other Wisconsin towns and cities for

the November 2006 election, and to inspire similar efforts in other states.



*Don McKeating speaks in Madison, 11/11*

On April 4, 2006, citizens in the following 26 Wisconsin towns, villages and cities will have the opportunity to

vote on the question of bringing our troops home from Iraq:

Algoma, Amery, Baraboo, Casco, Draper, Edgewater, Egg Harbor, Ephraim, Evansville, Exeland, Frederic, Forestville, Kewaunee, LaCrosse, Luxemburg, Madison, Monona, Newport, Ojibwe, Osceola, Shorewood, Sister Bay, Spider Lake Township, Sturgeon Bay, Watertown, Winter

To find out more about the “Bring Our Troops Home” movement in Wisconsin, or to start a referendum campaign in your own town, go to: [www.wisconsin troopshome.org](http://www.wisconsin troopshome.org), or call Steve at the WNPJ office: 608-250-9240.

# Many Stories, One Vision for a Nuclear-Free World

## Report from Nevada, Aug. 2005

Maureen McDonnell, O.P. [mcdonnell@edgewood.edu](mailto:mcdonnell@edgewood.edu) or 608-663-3233

Hundreds of people from all over the U.S. and beyond its borders gathered August 4-7, 2005, on the campus of UNLV in Las Vegas and at the Nevada Test Site to remember the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The occasion was a national conference co-sponsored by Pax Christi USA and the Nevada Desert Experience.

Attending from Wisconsin were Peter Geniesse (retired journalist and activist from the Fox Valley area), Sr. Stella Storch (promoter for Peace & Justice for the Sisters of St. Agnes from Fond du Lac), Sr. Kathy Long (originally from Appleton, on the staff of the 8<sup>th</sup> Day Center for Justice in Chicago, but as of Nov. 1, director of CCIDD in Cuernavaca, Mexico), Sr. Maureen McDonnell (campus minister at Edgewood College in Madison), Dianne Henke and others from Peace Action and SOAW, Milwaukee.

The Vision Statement provides much substance for reflection: "Each one of us is a child of satyagraha, a tiny seedling of truth-force filled with the capacity to learn, transform and rejoice. We are called into the service of that abundant beauty present within our need for healing, reconciliation and peace. We are called to renew our witness to justice at the Test Site and all places and to inspire and empower all relationships within our work, as we remember the genocide of our sisters and brothers in Nagasaki and Hiroshima 60 years ago. Our voice calls out, during this Year of Remembrance and Action, for the immediate ending of nuclear testing and the

disarmament and abolition of all nuclear weapons. Our days of dialogue and witness together mark a rebirth, a regeneration of the peoples' movement in solidarity with the oneness of all living things."

From the beginning of this powerful gathering, solidarity was evident with the Western Shoshone Nation, on whose land we stood. Corbin Harney, from that Nation, spoke about the "nature way" and called to females to lead us out of the darkness we are presently in. He was present and visible throughout the conference, participating fully, representing his people and calling all people to unity and reverence for Mother Earth.

Ritual was a significant part of the gathering, signaled initially by a willow hoop. Each person was invited to approach this hoop, be smudged with a sacred mixture by a young Native American man, and step through the hoop, letting go of concerns and stresses, analogous to emerging from the womb, so that we could be fully present and unified in this experience. On the other side of the hoop, all were blessed with sacred water. This willow hoop was visible all through the conference, and the Saturday night ritual in the desert. People who had decided to do nonviolent civil disobedience by entering the Nuclear Test Site stepped through it.

This conference accomplished the amazing task of bringing diverse people together and also affecting individuals in powerful ways. An example of the latter was the workshop presented by Miki Kashton, an

Israeli Jew and teacher of nonviolent communication. She worked with a large group to teach us to release the internal judgment dynamic that interferes with our doing our own work, developing the skills to hear self and other with compassion and understanding. She challenged us to describe actions without judgment ... to learn how to disentangle judgment when describing what happened in a given situation." Miki emphasized that even the most accurate **interpretation** of another person's words or actions separates us from them. She helped us face such important questions as: What is the hope/need of the other person in this situation? Can I imagine strategies of communication that meet more needs (of the other and of self)? Can a person I struggle with become my teacher in nonviolence?

This gathering educated participants about many areas related to nuclear deterrence, leading people into wholistic celebrations of joy and life, challenging people to communicate and pray together across lines of culture and faith, and inviting many to do nonviolent civil disobedience.

Truly the desert has power... as a place of solidarity and unity of people of good will.

Websites to check out:  
[www.NevadaDesertExperience.org](http://www.NevadaDesertExperience.org);  
[www.paxchristiusa.org](http://www.paxchristiusa.org);  
[www.wagingpeace.org](http://www.wagingpeace.org);  
[www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org);  
[www.nationalpriorities.org](http://www.nationalpriorities.org);  
[www.circlevision](http://www.circlevision)

Maureen McDonnell, O.P. extends a sincere 'Thank-you' to WNPJ for honoring her with its 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award. "The event on December 9 was truly a highlight of this time of my life ... so uplifting, encouraging ... I hope everyone present felt brought into the light and filled with hope as a result. I fully intended to acknowledge the radical role my dear parents, John and Marge McDonnell, have played in my upbringing as an activist involved in working for peace based on justice. In the excitement of the evening, though they were very much in my mind and heart, mention of them escaped me, but I want everyone who reads this to know that my gratitude to them is deepest of all." Thanks ... Sr. 'Mo'

## *A Tribute to Maureen McDonnell, OP*

Maureen McDonnell, O.P. **received the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice (WNPJ)** on November 9 during a festive dinner at Edgewood College in Madison.

Sister "Mo" has been a Sinsinawa Dominican for over 40 years, spending part of that time as an elementary and secondary teacher, but the past 25 years as a campus minister on four different campuses. Students from Wyoming to Pennsylvania, and now Edgewood College for the past 18 years, have benefited from her presence. She has been an active member of her Congregation's Faith and Resistance Working Circle, hosting last spring's statewide meeting here in Madison, focusing on the issue of water and its use/abuse.

During the dinner and the award-giving ceremony, people came forward to tell stories of appreciation and love for Sister "Mo", of the 'learning with the heart' that she gave to students as they traveled with her through field trips to Central America and the School of the Americas, and of her determination to call us all to works of peace and justice.

At the award ceremony, Cecil Findley, WNPJ Vice-Chair summed up Sister "Mo's" contribution: "I have come to deeply respect, trust and lean on the steady, consistent peacemaking leadership of Sister Maureen McDonnell..... Somehow, as I thought of her today, the words from Isaiah came to me: 'How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of one who brings good tidings, who publishes (or heralds) peace.' Who among us does that better and more beautifully than Sister 'Mo'?" -hd



## SOA Vigil November, 2005, and WHINSEC Board of Visitors Meeting

Maureen McDonnell, O.P. [mcdonnell@edgewood.edu](mailto:mcdonnell@edgewood.edu) or 608-663-3233.

"There can be no peace without justice and there is no justice without respect for human rights." So ends the statement made on December 2 at the Board of Visitors meeting at Fort Benning, GA, by Sister Liz Sully from Atlanta in which she spoke on behalf of her Sinsinawa Dominican community and all people seeking peace based on justice.

Liz was among the 19,000 citizens and people of faith who gathered Nov. 18-20 in Columbus, Georgia, for the 16<sup>th</sup> consecutive year at the gates of Fort Benning. With one voice ... "Presente" ... the gathering remembered the thousands who have lost life because of the violence wrought by military people from their own countries who have been trained over decades by the part of Fort Benning known as School of the Americas/WHINSEC. And with one voice, we called on the U.S. government to "shut it down."

With extraordinary courage and commitment, 40 persons crossed over or under the triple barbed wire barricade, erected to keep citizens out of the fort which their taxes support, including six from Wisconsin.

The bus which left from Madison on Nov. 17 was boarded by 42 enthusiastic activists, ages 16 to 79, who formed a community of support and solidarity with each other and with our sisters and brothers in Latin America. We had a number of opportunities during October and early November to learn about the issues involved, the history of SOA-Watch and the school, legislative actions being taken in the U.S. House of Representatives (H.R. 1217, a bill to shut down the SOA, was introduced by Rep. James McGovern and has 122 bi-partisan co-sponsors at this time), and what we might do to affect change on this issue. Now it was time to get on the bus

and put our bodies where our thoughts and desires had been.

The Vigil was a rich opportunity to learn about so many topics: racism, nonviolence, situations of injustice in Colombia, Haiti, Venezuela, and much more. A significant force was the Jesuit Family Teach-in for Justice and the Saturday night Mass in the huge white Jesuit tent, attended by over 4000. Veterans for Peace and members of many religious communities were everywhere. Families and people from four generations were evident. It truly is a people's movement.

Despite the serious reason for which these thousands gather, a spirit of indomitable joy and peace pervades this Vigil. Contributing to this are the dozens of musicians from all over the Americas, the

See **SOA and WHINSEC**, page 8

**SOA and WHINSEC** from page 7

Puppetistas, the never-ending food available from the generous Catholic Worker community ... a festival of resistance and action for the good of the human community.

Connected with this is the September announcement by Bishop Robert Morlino of the Catholic diocese of Madison that he had accepted an appointment to the Board of Visitors (BOV) of WHINSEC. A firestorm of questions ensued about what he hoped to accomplish by this, both from individuals and in the press. His response was that because of the allegations of hu-

man rights abuses against WHINSEC, he felt "a sense of personal responsibility in this matter. Know that I am committed to serious oversight of the mission and messages that come out of WHINSEC. I truly believe that had I not accepted my appointment, I would be saying ... that human rights are someone else's responsibility. I believe they are mine and ... this will allow me to proclaim (that) (a)ll human life is precious to God ... (and) must be treated with ... dignity."

At the time of the meeting, here in Madison, about 35 persons fasted and prayed

for 25 hours for all involved in that meeting. They concluded this time of fasting and prayer at the O'Connor Pastoral Center in Madison with a Memorial Service the night of Dec. 2 to honor the four North American churchwomen, who were martyred 25 years ago that day in El Salvador because of their witness and work with the poor.

Persons of his diocese and many other interested citizens and people of faith look forward to more dialogue with Bishop Morlino about issues involved and actions. He can be contacted at this address: P.O. Box 44983; Madison, WI 53744-4983.

## Peace Lights

News from member organizations....

# WNPJ Welcomes 150<sup>th</sup> Member Group: Radio Driftless

WNPJ's "sesquicentennial" member group, Driftless Community Radio, is named for the ruggedly beautiful area of southwestern Wisconsin untouched by the glaciers of the last ice age.

Radio Driftless began as an idea put forward in a series of town-hall meetings hosted by the Valley Stewardship Network in the winter of 2003, and has grown into a busy staff collective offering programming from 8am to 10 pm every day.

Although the Federal Communications Commission is dragging its feet on issuing new broadcast licenses to non-commercial radio stations (no new licenses have been issued in four years) the staff at Radio Driftless is not discouraged. Through the medium of "webcasting", their unique mix of music and progressive news programs can be heard by anyone with an internet connection. Building a "virtual" station now ensures that Driftless' staff

will be more than ready for the airwaves when that long-awaited broadcast license comes through.

Radio Driftless follows in the tradition of community radio stations like WOJB in Hayward and WORT in Madison in providing a voice for their community and an alternative to homogenized, profit-driven corporate media. Be sure to give Radio Driftless a listen - you can "tune in" at [www.radiodriftless.org](http://www.radiodriftless.org).

**The Corporate Accountability Task Group (CATG)** in recent years has produced numerous brochures and a Fair Trade Directory, available soon. While there remains much to be done, it seems that without new peoples' energy, the efforts will fade. Please contact Judy or Steve at WNPJ at [info@wnpj.org](mailto:info@wnpj.org) if your interest in Corporate Accountability is strong enough to sustain this Task Group, by participating in monthly meetings (by phone or in person in Madison) and following-up with various tasks. Thanks for all the work that's been done with this group. Char Thompson, past-Chair of CATG. [chart@tds.net](mailto:chart@tds.net).

**Advance order for your copy of the  
WNPJ Wisconsin Fair Trade Directory**

Including Fair Trade shopping spots across the state,  
and recipes collected by John Peck of Family Farm Defenders ([jepeck@wisc.edu](mailto:jepeck@wisc.edu))  
Send your payment to: WNPJ, 122 State St. #402, Madison, WI 53703

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

How many? \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ (\$5/each, includes shipping)

# *Stories of Hope*

## Peace Studies in Wisconsin

*Ian M. Harris*

On October 8, 2004, a gala dinner celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Wisconsin Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (hereafter referred to as "the Wisconsin Institute," <http://www.uwsp.edu/history/WIPCS/WIPCS1.htm>). This organization has as its goal to "encourage and legitimize research and teaching on the roots of organized violence, on security issues, and on the factors necessary for a just global peace, to develop and maintain a resource base for peace studies, and thereby to increase the probability of the survival and enhancement of life in the nuclear age."

The Wisconsin Institute responded to a growth in the 1980s of peace studies programs on college campuses as a result of growing alarm about the Cold War and the production and threatened use of nuclear weapons. Concern about the fate of the planet created new courses and programs aimed toward promoting global survival. Peace studies in Wisconsin began in the year 1985 at UW-Stevens Point and later at Northland College in Ashland.

On February 3, 1985, faculty members from seven private colleges and universities and ten University of Wisconsin campuses and centers, as well as representatives from UW Extension and the UW System, convened at UW-Stevens Point to begin implementation of the Wisconsin Institute. On September 13, 1985, the first meeting of the Wisconsin Institute Executive Board occurred at UW-Stevens Point Campus. At that meeting a charter was established that set up a membership organization of the various campuses. Twenty campuses both public and private joined the Wisconsin Institute. This number has remained fairly constant throughout its history. The Wisconsin Institute is based at UW-Stevens Point.

At the original meeting, and throughout the 80s and 90s various programs were launched:

- The "Campus Visitors" program provides expert speakers on peace and conflict issues available without charge for appearances on campuses throughout Wisconsin.

- A series of conferences on critical issues, geared to faculty and members of the general public.

- A series of annual student conferences held in the spring. The first such conference, entitled "Critical Issues in the Global Village", organized by Leonard Gambrell of the UW-Eau Claire Political Science Department, established the basic pattern. The 2005 conference at UW-Whitewater, "The Culture of War and Peace," gave students an opportunity to express some of their concerns about recent events such as the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Next spring the student conference will be held on April 7, 2006 at UW-Superior.

- A semiannual newsletter, Bulletin of the Wisconsin Institute, intended to inform administrators and faculty of member schools of the organization's programs and activities.

- A publication of an annual journal, originally entitled Viewpoints on War, Peace and Global Cooperation and in 1997 renamed Journal for the Study of Peace and Conflict available at (<http://www.uwsp.edu/history/WIPCS/journal.html>).

The Wisconsin Institute has helped nurture the growth of peace studies programs on colleges and university campuses in Wisconsin. In 1989 UW-Milwaukee initiated an undergraduate certificate program in peace studies and in 2000 a graduate certificate in mediation run by the Department of Communication that houses a

mediation center and a Peace Resource Institute on the UWM campus. Alverno College has a major emphasis on peace that is infused throughout its curriculum. In 2004 Marquette University initiated a peace studies certificate program that has proved so popular that an interdisciplinary minor in peace and justice studies is being developed. Mount Mary College in Milwaukee has courses that could lead to an independent major in peace studies.

For More Information about the Peace Studies Programs in Wisconsin contact the following:

- *Alverno College, Donna Engleman*, [donna.engelmann@alverno.edu](mailto:donna.engelmann@alverno.edu)

414-382-6413

- *Marquette University, Michael Duffy*, [michael.duffey@marquette.edu](mailto:michael.duffey@marquette.edu)

414-288-3748

- *Mount Mary College, Lynne Woehrle* [Woehrlel@mtmary.edu](mailto:Woehrlel@mtmary.edu),

414-535-1372 ext. 413

- *Northland College, Joy Meeker*, [meeker@northland.edu](mailto:meeker@northland.edu) 715-682-1250

- *UW Milwaukee (Peace Studies), Rob Ricigliano*, [robr@uwm.edu](mailto:robr@uwm.edu) 414-229-2221 (**Member group of WNPJ**)

- *UW Milwaukee (Mediation), Nancy Burrell*, [nburrell@uwm.edu](mailto:nburrell@uwm.edu) 414-229-2255

- *UW Stevens Point, Eric Yonke*, [eyonke@uwsp.edu](mailto:eyonke@uwsp.edu) 715-346-2458

*Ian M. Harris is a Professor in the UW-Milwaukee Department of Educational Policy and Community Studies and teaches a course in the UW-M Peace Studies curriculum. He is the author of the book "Peace Education" (1988) and co-author, with Linda Forcey, of "Peacebuilding for Adolescents: Strategies for Educators and Community Leaders" (1999). He is the President of the International Peace Research Association Foundation. Contact: (Phone) 414-229-2326 (Fax) 414-229-3700 e-mail: imh@uwm.edu; website: <http://www.uwm.edu/~imh>.*

This article is submitted by Jackson Tiffany, co-chair of the Nonviolence and Education Task Group (NETTG) of WNPJ.

## Bits & Peaces

A **Department of Defense database obtained by NBC News** includes nearly four dozen anti-war meetings or protests, including some that have taken place far from any military installation, post or recruitment center. One "incident" included in the database is a large anti-war protest at Hollywood and Vine in Los Angeles last March. Another incident mentions a planned protest against military recruiters last December in Boston. NBC investigative unit, December 13, 2005.

**Update:** At least one WNPJ member group was placed under surveillance by the Pentagon. A protest at an ROTC recruiting center by UW-Madison group Stop the War was included in a list of Pentagon-monitored activities released to *NBC news*.

"The **Catholic Worker movement** has now officially lasted 25 years beyond the death of its founder, Dorothy Day, and looks sturdy enough to last another 25.

There is something of a riddle in that.... Lots of organizations want to lift up the poor, oppose war and reshape society, but few try to do so with no governing structure, no official means of support, no paid staff members and - since Day's death on Nov. 29, 1980 - no leader. As a part of the celebration of the event, about 25 people, most from Catholic Worker houses across the country, were taking part in a march from Santiago de Cuba to the gates of Guantánamo Bay to protest the treatment of the terrorism-war detainees. *New York Times*, December 8, 2005.

The influential peace group **Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR)** has **joined the fight against Depleted Uranium (DU)**. As part of a report "Health Issues Arising from the Use of DU Munitions PSR states: "...no adequate assessment of DU ...has been made, ...but the precautionary principle applies here: the proponent of an activity, rather than the public, should bear the burden of proof...As physicians and health professionals...we believe that the use of DU weapons that leaves a persistent noxious environmental and public health hazard is unconscionable. We owe it to future generations to stop their use and attend to their cleanup immediately." *Nukewatch Pathfinder*, Winter 2005/06

## Peace and Justice Resources

On the **Montreal Climate Talks**, check out [www.Kyotousa.org](http://www.Kyotousa.org). KyotoUSA is a grassroots effort to encourage U.S. cities and their citizens to take action to end global warming.

The **story of Pentagon efforts to control reporting** on the war on Iraq just before and during the first days of the bombing of Baghdad is available in a DVD: **CONTROL ROOM**; 86 minutes; Lion's Gate Home Entertainment, Magnolia Pictures; Catalogue # 169632.

Celebrate **International Human Rights Day** by being part of the global launch of Make Some Noise, Amnesty International's new global campaign that is a mix of music and activism. Four new versions of John Lennon songs: Power to the People, Love, Isolation, and Grow Old With Me can be downloaded at [www.amnesty.org/noise/](http://www.amnesty.org/noise/)

For a persuasive argument for a **troop withdrawal from Iraq**, read If America Left Iraq by Nir Rosen, *The Atlantic Monthly* at <http://www.truthout.org>.

Salim Lamrani's book **Superpower Principles: U.S. Terrorism Against Cuba** (2005, Common Courage Press, [www.commoncouragepress.com](http://www.commoncouragepress.com), 14.95, paper, 205pp.) is a collection of 16 essays that attempt to fill the vacuum created by the chronic lack of reporting on U.S.-based terrorism against Cuba and the imprisonment of the "Cuban Five," now in its eighth year, including Fernando Gonzalez in Oxford, WI. Edited by Salim Lamrani of the Sorbonne, its contributors are from France, Italy, South Africa, India, as well as Cuba & the U.S. They include Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn, Michael Parenti, and Sol Landau, internationally known jurists Jitendra Sharma and Leonard Weinglass, and Nobel laureate Nadine Gordimer. It is divided into two parts, one on U.S. terrorism against Cuba, and one on the story of the Cuban Five. Even a careful consumer of the news will be surprised to read how many of the facts of this case that was one of the longest trials, could be so unknown. Submitted by Art Heitzer, of the Wisconsin Coalition to Normalize Relations with Cuba, [www.wicuba.org](http://www.wicuba.org). A related DVD is available through the website.

A DVD of a UNA program in Milwaukee on October 8<sup>th</sup> is available. Learn how to implement the **Millennial Goals adopted by the world in 2000 to "Make Poverty History"** and systematically attack preventable diseases, lack of education and equal opportunities. For private or group viewings, contact Kurt Johnson, directly at 414-276-5046 or [siddhartha2roam@hotmail.com](mailto:siddhartha2roam@hotmail.com). The DVD is also available for broadcast on cable access through Dave Grooman at MATA, 414-342-4000 ext.318. **Part I**, includes George McGovern; Barbara Lawton; Tammy Walhof, of The One Campaign; Milw. Health Commissioner Bevan Baker; and Bill Lynch, Tanzania Economic Development Initiative. One of the deeply moving talks is from Iraqi activist & author Zainab Salbi, founder of Women for Women International, which assists women whose lives have been torn apart by war & conflict. **Part II** includes the plenary presentation by Martin Sanchez, Consul General of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Costs: \$10.00 including shipping for both.

Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice

Name \_\_\_\_\_
Address \_\_\_\_\_
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_
Contact Person for Organization Membership \_\_\_\_\_
The main focus for my/our peace and justice effort is: \_\_\_\_\_
Send completed form to: Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice
122 State Street, #402
Madison, WI 53703
Information: phone 608-250-9240; e-mail info@wnpj.org; website www.wnpj.org. WNPJ is a 501c3 organization and donations are tax-deductible.

NEWS OF THE NETWORK

Judy Miner, WNPJ Office Coordinator

Check out the WNPJ website www.wnpj.org to see the changes. A new feature, "We're in the News", has links to newspaper articles and letters around the state written by and about WNPJ members. Send your news to outreach@wnpj.org and send your calendar events/action alerts to info@wnpj.org.

Do you need a speaker for one of your programs? See the "Speakers Bureau" listing on the home page of the website, www.wnpj.org. Bonnie and Bob Block are just back from a FOR trip to Iran, now eager to come to speak to your group about that experience. Contact: bblock@charter.net or 608-256-5088.

Thanks to the many volunteers that make WNPJ what it is: Nan/David Cheney, Char Thompson, John Peck, Barb Boehme, Donna Estess, Karin Sandvik, Arlene/Hiroshi Kanno, Jane Dennis, Russel Novkov, Debbie Kinder/Kathy Dakter at Camp LaFollette, Fred Brancel, Nadja and Natasha, Chuck Romstad, Phil Biebl, Dave Nordstrom and so many more. A special thanks this month to Sheila Spear, treasurer, who has put in countless hours on so many projects for WNPJ.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities: 1) If you want to get more in-

involved with the website (for example, editing/maintaining the LINKS page) let us know. Call 608-250-9240 or e-mail info@wnpj.org. You can live anywhere in Wisconsin and work on this project. 2) Live near Madison? Let us know if you are available for phone answering and light office work. 3) Do you like to "table" at events, providing outreach on peace and justice to your community? We have WNPJ literature ready for distribution, including Corporate Accountability brochures, post cards, yard signs for peace, and more. We can send you a packet of supplies. 4) Volunteers needed for the 2006 WNPJ Walk for Peace Planning Group. Contact organizers for the March, Connie Kanitz ckanitz@new.rr.com or Cham Nusz chamomilen@cecofwi.com

WNPJ now has 156 member groups. (see p.12 of Network News for a complete listing) We're looking for your suggestions on program ideas for the WNPJ Steering Committee Meeting, Saturday April 1. Contacts from our 156 member groups will come together for this daylong conference. Let us know if your group would like to host this event. Contact: Mary Beth Schlagheck at mbspeace1@charter.net or 608-846-7924.

Letter from Chair from front page

a world of peace and justice, we find also many encouraging and hopeful indicators.

The tide is turning; across Wisconsin and the country, support for the war in Iraq is ebbing. Cindy Sheehan's question of 'why is this war worth my son's life?' remains unanswered. We have no clear definition or strategy for 'victory,' no end in sight of our troop deployment there. US Representative John Murtha, a veteran and staunch supporter of the US military, sent a shock wave through Congress and around the world with his call for an immediate withdrawal of troops.

In Wisconsin, the referendum 'Bring the Troops Home' will be on many election ballots thanks to the many volunteers and many more people willing to sign their name.

WNPJ is pleased to note our growth to 156 member organizations. We continue to develop the WNPJ Peace Platform (see Sheila's article on page 1) as a means of creating a more just and peaceful world.

John Lennon was right. All we are saying, is give peace a chance. Imagine all the people living in peace. The tide is turning.

Peace,
Alfred Meyer

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