

Peace Letter



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Deep Wounds of Iraq War

By Ellen Thomas

On July 4, 2004, with gunpowder wafting across the White House, I searched for numbers of dead and dollars resulting from the current Iraq war. Here were the Independence Day numbers for our boys and girls in Iraq:

- The U.S. had spent well over \$121 billion in Iraq. The Washington Times estimates this at \$1600 per household. It will more than double with a 3-year occupation.
- Iraq Body Count listed 13,085 Iraqi civilians reported as dead. No one accounts yet for how many Iraqis have been physically injured and maimed, nor is there any way to know how many military and other deaths are unreported.
- The US Department of Defense (DoD) reported 900 US soldiers dead, over 40 from Washington DC area. More than a quarter of total deaths are listed by the DoD as non-hostile. Friendly fire accounted for some 18% during the first six weeks of the current Iraq conflict.

Suicides

Twenty-five soldiers have taken their lives during the past year in Iraq, plus seven suicides among newly State-sided troops, including two who killed themselves while they were patients at overcrowded Walter Reed Army Hospital in Bethesda, MD. The suicide rate for army troops in Iraq has been 17 per 100,000 soldiers, compared to the overall Army rate of 12 per 100,000 between 1995 and 2002.

Depression, shame, fear, and exhaustion cause suicides. As tours of duty are extended unreasonably, and friends and civilians die, soldiers lose heart. 'The higher suicide rate in Iraq can be attributed to the higher percentage of married and reserve troops, and the lower amount of stress training and screening in basic training

for non-combat troops,' military analyst James F. Dunnigan, author of *The Next War Zone: Confronting the Global Threat of Cyberterrorism*, wrote in a recent commentary.

The Injured

The Pentagon admits to 5,394 US soldiers who have been wounded in action, 190 from the DC area. It's hard to know what the real figures might be, since there is a veil of secrecy at the hospitals over the numbers and types of casualties. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 threatens health care personnel with prison and/or astronomical fines for talking.

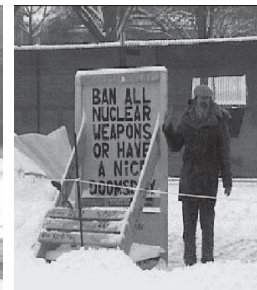
A tragic number of US soldiers have lost arms, legs, eyes, while others suffer less obvious internal and psychological ailments. Nearly two-thirds admitted to Walter Reed Hospital have had brain injuries. Lack of adequate armor for the soldiers or their Humvees were responsible for a huge number of amputations. Although many thin-skinned Humvees have been armored in the field, they're now top-heavy, at least 17 people have been killed in accidents.

For returnees, post-traumatic stress disorder is a major problem. Army physicians have found that fewer than half of soldiers who need help get it. Those with the greatest problems are the least likely to seek treatment, fearing that they'll be considered weak or cowardly.

Meanwhile, although veterans using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care increased from 2.9 million in 1995 to 5 million in 2004, assistance for veterans has been cut: 540 full-time jobs, 37% of nursing home beds, and \$50 million from research. The 2005 budget falls \$2.6 billion short of the amount needed to fully fund quality VA health care

(continued p. 3, 'Wounded')

Peace Park Antinuclear Vigil: 23 Years of Hope



White House Vigilers stand for peace, justice, wisdom, honesty, and global nuclear disarmament round-the-clock and in all weather. On June 3, 2004, dozens of friends gathered in Lafayette (Peace) Park to honor the 23 years of service by Wm. Thomas and Concepcion Picciotto, vigil founders. See <http://prop1.org/> [Photos by Shia & ef]

Hiroshima and Nagasaki Were a Warning

By John Steinbach, President, Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Committee

"As the Bush administration relentlessly injects itself into conflicts around the world in the name of eradicating terror, rather than bringing peace, it only fans the flames of hatred. If this is allowed to continue, it may carry us to nuclear war, and to the annihilation of humankind."
-Haruko Moritaki, Hiroshima, Japan

The atomic bombings serve as a warning to humanity of the genocidal character of nuclear weapons, and illustrate the compelling need for international agreements for their abolishment. Each August we pause to remember the anniversary of the annihilation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and renew our commitment to realizing a world free from the threat of nuclear war. We seek to link our work for nuclear disarmament with our opposition to militarism, social justice, and environmental degradation.

We commemorate the 59th anniversary of the atomic bombings with a renewed sense of urgency about the world situation. Richard Falk, eminent Professor of International Law, wrote recently: "Not since the dawn of the nuclear age at the end of World War II has the danger of nuclear war been greater."

In just 3 1/2 years, the Bush administration has brought the world to the brink of nuclear precipice. The immoral, illegal war on Iraq and current military occupation have created a climate of suspicion and fear which can only fuel the nuclear madness. Among Bush's controversial nuclear policies are trashing the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty; calling for preemptive use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states; proposing a new Pentagon nuclear command structure combining the U.S. Space Command, National Missile Defense, and the U.S. Strategic Command; planning new battlefield nukes; and preparing resumption of nuclear testing. In September, President Bush will announce operational deployment of a National Missile 'Defense' System,

(continued p. 3, 'Hiroshima')

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Our Fifth Decade
Working for Peace &
Justice

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Washington Peace Center



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The Washington Peace Center is a non-profit, anti-racist, multi-issue peace and justice organization committed to nonviolent social change. The Peace Center serves as a clearinghouse and resource center and has provided peace education and action in the Metropolitan area since 1963. We are supported by the generous contributions of our readers.

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The *Washington Peace Letter* (ISSN 1050-2823) is published for the social justice community of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area. Its purpose is to support local, national and international struggles against oppression. It seeks to present a radical analysis of current events, covering information not readily available in the corporate media.

The *Peace Letter* welcomes submissions of articles, announcements, letters-to-the-editor and artwork from the progressive community. Articles may be from 300 to 1,200 words, but may be edited for space considerations. Preference is given to coverage of actions or campaigns being organized in the D.C. area. We reserve the right to select or reject all submissions.

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At the Peace Center

As we continue our struggle for a fair and just society, the Peace Center finds itself at a crossroads. Our nation is involved in a global war on terrorism, with an intelligent and evolving enemy.

Yet we also have a war on the streets, as our youth are increasingly turning to violence to resolve petty differences. Our government is spending billions of tax dollars to rebuild Iraq, while our school systems go under-funded and many other social service programs are overwhelmed with requests for food, healthcare, treatment for drug/alcohol addiction and affordable housing.

In this, one of the most important election years in history, it has become apparent that the needs of the many are

outweighed by the greed of the few. Our children will grow up in a world dominated by the fear of unnamed sources with information about unknown attacks from an unknown enemy. Of course, the news we receive comes from news outlets that are owned by the same corporate businesses that benefit from close relationships with lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Acknowledging such conflict of interest as we seek to address the things that matter to the people in our community, it is difficult to know who to trust and where to go – which is why you are going to see something different in this issue of the *Peace Letter*.

While we feel that the war on terror is important, there is

also a war for survival in the streets. Iraqis need hospitals and health care, but we must also recognize that thousands of working people in this country cannot afford health insurance. Housing, education, employment, and all the things that a truly democratic society should provide for its citizens' welfare, are the things that many of us fight for everyday.

In addition to our regular reporting on global events, we will be discussing not only problems, but also how to create solutions and to develop future leaders who will continue the work we began 40 years ago.

Come join us at the Peace Center, as we strive to be a beacon for anyone seeking to create a world without war, poverty and suffering.

There has been an infusion of energy at the Peace Center with the addition of eight community activists to the Board and a new Coordinator, Brian Anders, also a seasoned activist. Brian has successfully recruited interns to help with various projects, including this *Peace Letter*.

Special thanks to John Judge, interim coordinator, and to board members Kit Bonson and Polly Stamatopoulos for keeping the work going during difficult times and for recruiting and embracing the new Board.

We're excited about what the Peace Center can and will accomplish during these challenging times. We hope you will plug in!



New Washington Peace Center Coordinator Brian Anders (*right*) conducts popular weekly teach-ins with Global Young Leadership Conference in Flemming Center library.

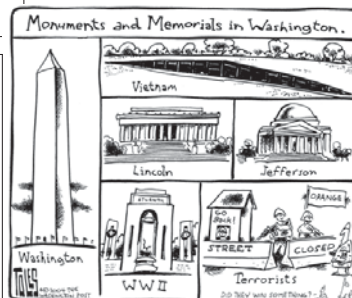
Peace Center Volunteers needed for:

- * Peace Letter
- * Tabling and Outreach
- * 40th Anniversary Event
- * Grant Proposal Writing

Attention Federal Employees!

Want to promote non-violent alternatives to war? Outraged when military spending robs dollars from education, health care and other critical needs? Give to the Peace Center via the Combined Federal Campaign!

Give to CFC # 7856



Support the Peace Center!

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Address _____
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The Washington Peace Center is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Your contributions are tax-deductible.

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(Combined Federal Campaign)

Enclosed is my check for \$25 \$40 \$50 other

Send your contribution to the
Washington Peace Center, 1426 9th Street, NW, Suite 306, Washington, DC 20001 or call (202) 234-2000.

Wounded (continued from p. 1)

The Homeless

Homeless veterans have been part of the Washington scene since at least the days of Stacey Abney, the World War II vet who protested outside the White House and US Capitol in the 1970's and 80's. Too many Vietnam vets have had to stand in DC's soup lines, slept or died in its shelters, parks and alleys, while trying to get help from the VA. According to the federal government, veterans make up 9% of the U.S. population but 23% of the homeless population. Among homeless men, veterans make up 33%. A comprehensive study by the Census Bureau in 1996 revealed that 47% of homeless veterans served

Hiroshima (continued from p. 1)

seen by Russia and China as a direct 'First Strike' threat.

Former Army intelligence analyst Bill Arkin warns, "The danger is that nuclear weapons – locked away in a Pandora's box for more than half a century – are being taken out of that lockbox and put on the shelf with everything else. To make such a doctrine encompass nuclear weapons is to embrace a view that, sooner or later, will spread beyond the moral capitals of Washington and London to New Delhi and Islamabad, to Pyongyang and Baghdad, Beijing, Tel Aviv and to every nuclear nation of the future."

9-11 Citizens Watch

By Betty Hurst

9-11 Citizens Watch is a group of researchers and families of 9-11 victims who have dedicated themselves to discovering the whole truth behind the tragedy of 9-11, co-founded by John Judge and Kyle Hence. Questions they have filed with the 9-11 Commission remain unaddressed.

In the run up to the commission hearings, they placed 300 posters in each of the D.C. metro lines and an ad in the *Washington Post* demanding that Bush, Cheney, Rice, Clinton, and Gore testify under oath. They have appeared on CSPAN to air ongoing concerns about non-accountability and a possible whitewash of events by the 9-11 Commission.

Citizens Watch urges the immediate release of all unclassified documents and rapid declassification of all other documents. Of special concern is that the Commission might recommend sequestering 9-11 documents for 50 years or more, which is what happened after the Warren Commission report. The group is also skeptical about the possible establishment of an MI-5 type domestic intelligence agency arising from commission findings.

Family survivor April Gallop feels the investigation was doomed from the beginning for lack of funding. She fears

during the Vietnam era, but soldiers from as far back as World War II and as recent as the Persian Gulf War have also ended up homeless.

Casualties Will Continue

The casualties will continue to mount, not only from skirmishes with Iraqis or despair at home, but more insidiously from a slow, hidden killer which the US has used twice in Iraq: depleted uranium, a radioactive and toxic waste now mixed forever in the blowing desert winds, and in the lungs, brains, kidneys, and reproductive organs of those who breathe or swallow the ubiquitous sands.

More on depleted uranium at <http://prop1.org/du/>

The real key to preventing the use of nuclear weapons, an act that will inevitably have calamitous consequences for the entire world, lies in the ability of the anti-nuclear, anti-intervention, social justice and antiglobalism movements to understand that their issues are inextricably linked. Our daunting task is complicated even further by the present jingoistic atmosphere and Constitutional lawlessness that have undoubtedly intimidated millions from speaking out. For the sake of our children, our planet and our future, we demand that all the nations of the world immediately begin good faith negotiations leading to early elimination of nuclear weapons.

there are Al Qaeda cells in the US because there is so little immigration control.

Family survivor Bruce Drissell doubts that 11 million illegals can be contacted in a search for possible Al Qaeda sleeper cells.

Among a long list of vital questions which can be found at the website (see below), family members also want to know why they were excluded from the commission when a seat became vacant, even though some family members had top-secret clearances.

They also want to know who was in charge on 9-11 and why no one has been called to task for failures. And if those in charge "couldn't imagine" that planes could be used as missiles, did that really matter if standard operating procedure was supposed to be evoked automatically in a timely manner, regardless of the reason for loss of airliner contact with control towers?

The great unasked question is whether anyone now is "in charge," and even if someone is, whether another tragedy is still waiting in the wings.

9-11 Citizens Watch can be reached at P.O. Box 772, Washington, DC 20044, and at (202) 583-5347 or (401)-847-1963; citizenswatch@starpower.net Website: www.911citizenswatch.org.

* 9-11 Citizens Watch is fiscally sponsored by the Washington Peace Center.

Where Do Soldiers Come From?

Part I

(Full article at 'archives' at <http://washingtonpeacecenter.org>)

By John Judge

Where have all the young men gone?
Gone to soldiers, every one.
And where have all the soldiers gone?
Gone to graveyards, every one.
When will they ever learn?
When will they ever learn?

- from "Where have all the flowers gone?" Peter, Paul & Mary

From the beginnings of armed conflict and war, the participants have been a mixture of volunteers and the less than willing. During the long course of human history, privation and economic circumstance drove human communities, cities and then countries to accumulate wealth, privilege and control of resources through expansion and conquest.

As the US expands its global role, the current military of over a million people is being stretched thin, forced to handle increased homeland security, a continuing presence in scores of countries, and interventions in a list that President Bush said may rise to 60 countries.

Opposition Grows

As opposition to undeclared wars and intervention grows, so does resistance to conscripted service. Mandatory ROTC had to be abandoned at almost all colleges due to student protests and refusals during the Vietnam war, and military recruiters were often confronted and opposed. Non-registration for Selective Service got as high as 85% in DC by the early '70s. Conscripted by Selective Service was finally abandoned in those years, since only one out of four were reporting when ordered. An annual national lottery, designed to diminish dissent by giving early notice of the likelihood of being drafted, led to increased resistance by those almost sure to be called. Troops and potential draftees alike fled to other countries, avoided military duties, and sometimes directly confronted military authority. Facing a growing revolt on the field in Vietnam and a massive anti-war and anti-draft movement at home, the Pentagon and the White House turned instead to a poverty draft, using economic incentives and pressure to bring 'volunteers' into the military ranks.

War has always been primarily a male-dominated activity, though women are usually the primary victims on both sides of any conflict, and sometimes participants, inside or outside the military bases. Women have also been more actively sought for the 'All Volunteer Force' to 'do the jobs that men don't want to' according to Pentagon planners. The Pentagon still refers to the challenges of maintaining or expanding the force as 'Manpower issues.' Despite fears that this would

create a 'professional military' class, not balanced by the civilian conscripts, the reality is that lower-ranking enlisted members do not share the same concerns as those who plan wars and foreign policy, and are quite likely to resist unjust wars. They did so in Vietnam, Grenada, the first Gulf War, and in the current conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. There is still a tremendous turnover of employees in the military, and an active and expensive national recruitment machinery and campaign to replace them.

During the first Gulf War, then-General Colin Powell's Total Force Doctrine initiated the use of National Guard and Reserve forces in combat abroad in larger numbers than the active duty forces, making all enlistment effective for eight years. Special 'stop-loss' orders made it difficult if not impossible for troops to be discharged, especially conscientious objectors, whose claims were heard only on the battlefield. At the same time, there were higher numbers of troops applying for discharge as conscientious objectors, especially Blacks and Muslims, than at the height of the Vietnam resistance in the ranks.

Similar regulations in use now have created a 'back-door draft' or rescription, by refusing to allow troops to leave when their enlistment period expires, and troop rotations have been promised and then delayed. The Pentagon planners want to continue to rely on the poverty draft for as long as they can, and they are now dipping into the Individual Ready Reserve, a demobilized force of over 100,000, and moving troops from stations in Korea and other long-term assignments abroad. Meanwhile they're relying heavily on civilian contractors.

Hundreds of millions of dollars are spent on recruitment advertising, recruiting commands meet strict quotas and goals, and young people are militarized as Young Marines, and in JROTC preparation classes in middle school and through high school. Over 90% of enlistments are done through the Delayed Entry Program, and young people sign up to join when they graduate from high school. The recent No Child Left Behind Act requires secondary schools taking federal funds to turn over contact information lists on all students to military recruiters on request. The law also allows parents and students to refuse to release the information, but they are rarely informed of their rights. Recruiters are a constant presence in schools, malls and youth events, and most films glorify war as a means to seek justice or revenge, and as a rite of passage for young men. Pentagon recruiting claims continue to distort the benefits available to veterans and the risks.

(continued on p 6, 'Soldiers')

There's No Business Like War Business

By Julie McCall

(tune: "There's No Business Like Show Business")

There's no business like war business for Big Business, we know
Everything about it is appealing
Halliburton's got a scam sublime
Nothing feels as good as double-dealing
When you are stealing taxpayers blind
There's no profits like war profits in our portfolio
If it's eighty-seven billion that you lack
Just ask the White House, they've got your back
Soon we'll see those Wal-Mart stores throughout Iraq
We're pros – on with the show
Let's go, rake in the dough!

There's no business like war business for Big Business, we know.
There's no Senator we haven't lobbied
There's no politician we can't buy
Reconstruction's more than just a hobby
It's all fraud we commit with pride
There's no contracts like war contracts to make our fortunes grow
Billion dollar windfalls we all have in store
Defense procurements we know we'll score
Every CEO knows that's what war is for
We're pros – on with the show
Let's go, rake in the dough!

There's no business like war business for Big Business, we know.
Mega-buck investments we're enjoying
Cheney's making sure we get our share
First the infrastructure we're destroying
Then we're deploying the millionaires
There's no money like war money, we learned this long ago
We can bilk Iraqis while the market's hot
Put Colonel Sanders in every pot
Next day they'll be calling us patriots
We're pros – on with the show
Let's go, rake in the dough!

If you are interested in more creative songs for use in demonstrations, organizing or to celebrate the struggle, contact Julie McCall, Labor Heritage Foundation, 888 16th St., NW, Suite 680, Washington, DC 20006, 202.974.8041, www.laborheritage.org. Ask for the Foundation's latest catalog featuring music, art, books, and videos about the struggle for labor rights and for social justice.

Making the War Real

By Roger Newell

A new, highly promoted combat video game, released in June of this year, is in reality a thinly veiled paeon to build support for the U.S.-led military inclusion in Iraq.

Called "Full Spectrum Warrior," the commercial version of the video game was developed from a video training program created for the U.S. Army to enhance U.S. urban warfare capabilities. It operates on the Microsoft Xbox system.

According to the developers of the game, the Institute for Creative Technologies (ICT), "Full Spectrum Warrior" places the student or game player in the role of light infantry squad leader, who must complete the urban warfare mission and return home with the squad. Their website describes the setting as "an eastern European urban environment."

Not just another video game.

"The goal of ICT games project is to develop immersive, interactive, real time training simulations to help the Army create a new generation of decision-making and leadership-development tools. Unlike other game-based tools, which adapt existing commercial games, ... Full Spectrum Warrior [was] designed as [a] learning tool," ICT said of its product.

The game was developed with the assistance of groups ranging from the Army's Research, Development and Engineering Command, Simulation Technology Center to the Army's Infantry School at Fort Benning, GA.

TV ads for the game, which are currently running on both broadcast and cable channels, glorify both the military and killing. For more information on the game go to ICT's website www.ict.usc.edu.

Youth Voices For Peace and Justice

Reaching out to young people for views and suggestions...

Youth Violence Prevention Funding Cutbacks

By Juan Pinda

I think that cutting funding for youth programs will make more young go into gangs. They think that we are stupid; we know what is going on around us and if they do this they will further disconnect us from society, and by cutting the anti-gang fund there will be more gangs. They need to focus on Latin and African Americans because we have the most poverty in the District. For African Americans, 37.6% are in poverty and 25.6% of the Latin youth are in poverty. I think this is a part of youth violence and it seems that the federal government feels that the war on crime has been won and is now putting its resources elsewhere.

The place where Bush is going to put more money is into Iraq and forget about the kids that are killing each other in the streets. He is cutting \$127 million and only putting \$53 million for our people and kids – this is not enough, we need all the help we can get. More funding can change the future of these kids that are out there looking for problems all the time. These programs can help us know more about what is going to happen to us if we stay out of school and go in a gang.

I think that part of the problem is war because this money that we had

for having a better future is going to Iraq but the future is here – we need the help of the government so that the kids have a better future and not there in Iraq so that we can have a good oil.

Gangs in D.C. are making the District of Columbia look bad in the eyes of the other states because it is the capital of the world and has a big gang problem. This problem is going to grow with time because with the attention that the president is putting on Iraq and especially if he is going to continue cutting the fund that we have for these programs that were helping us to get out of gangs.

Now this is going to make more people go into gangs because they will

"Bush is cutting \$127 million from youth anti-violence programs."

see that the government doesn't care about us. All of the care that we have is among us and that is why some people don't know what to do and they go into a gang because some parents don't know how to talk to their kids or don't know what to do in a situation like this.

This is a problem that everyone needs to help to get out of the streets of DC because if we are untied we can win this war, but if we go in separate ways we will fail.

[Juan Pinda is a student at Cesar Chavez Charter School. He had a fellowship at the Washington Peace Center during the month of June.]

Hiroshima and Nagasaki: A Youth's Perspective

By Jamila McCoy

Excerpted from a speech given in Hiroshima in August, 2003 as winner of the Hiroshima/Nagasaki essay.

While the acts of terror committed against people of color have been numerous and cruel, America's use of weapons of mass destruction against Japan stand out as especially treacherous act of violence.

Japan has rebuilt its infrastructure and its economy has recovered, but it and the rest of the world are forever scarred by the use of the atomic and hydrogen bombs against them.

The global community can look to Hiroshima and Nagasaki as examples of what happens when the doctrine "might makes right" is followed.

As we remember the immense tragedies of these massacres we should say, never again will there be another atomic holocaust.

It is our responsibility as members of the human race to be watchful of our leaders, to check their power and make sure they do not commit crimes against humanity to serve their own personal objectives. We must take control of our media, our land, and our resources if we ever want to regain control of our lives.

Each and every one of us is our brother's keeper; to be a silent witness to injustice is tantamount to giving consent to that injustice. We cannot prevent another Hiroshima or Nagasaki by becoming mentally lazy or being lax in our activism. The spirit of the movement must stay strong after the marches and rallies are over for any true changes to be made in society.

Without education and self-determination we have no control of our situation.

Nagasaki and Hiroshima: Never Again!

Youth-Made PSA Counters Youth Violence

By Nina Talley

The quasi-deep, animated voice plays back over the computer speaker: "Youth can do something about youth and gang violence, get invikved and participate in programs.."

"That's not my voice! Man I don't even sound like that!" José, one of the four Cesar Chavez High School students in the recording studio shouted with surprise, causing laughter from the other students, the WPFW technician, Selena, and myself. "It's you alright," replied Angela, another student from Chavez. We all nodded in agreement. "I didn't know I sounded like that," José muttered to himself, voice trailing as Selena decided who would be speaking into the microphone next.

That moment represented the climax of a semester's worth of work for me as an intern with the Washington Peace Center. Over the course of three months I helped coordinate the Community Action Project, partnered with four students from Cesar Chavez High School, to learn more about public policy related to youth and gang violence in DC.

Throughout that time we met with four different organizations: Critical Resistance, Co/Motion, Justice for DC Youth and the Youth Leadership Support Network. We not only learned about what these organizations were doing, but also how they fit into the national movement to decrease youth violence.

The participating students created a survey to gain insight into what students in the District thought about youth and gang violence. Once we received about fifty responses back we tallied up those numbers into percentages and used that information alongside local and national statistics in a Public Service Announcement that we recorded with the help of WPFW Pacifica, 89.3 FM.

Supporting the implementation and coordination of these efforts was an amazing experience for me. It exposed me to an area of work that I find myself engaged by and talented at. But the most rewarding aspect of this project was by far the relationship I developed with the students. In getting to know each of them I find that I have learned so much more than public policy as it relates to youth violence.

I now realize that young people have an insight on every subject that concerns them, and many that do not; yet so many times those from older generations ignore them. It seems ironic that the discussion of an issue as important as youth violence overlooks the voice of those it affects most. In order to effectively combat youth violence and other problems relating to the youth of America, we must listen to the younger population.

Giving them a voice involves them in the process, and this cannot hurt any more in the long run than the current practice of keeping them out does.

I give many thanks to the Peace Center for their support and dedication in providing the space and resources for the students to create this project, and for providing me with a professional environment in which to learn, be involved and challenge my perceptions of public policy in this country. So to all that were involved, thank you, you made a difference in at least one life.

Nina Talley interned with the Washington Peace Center from January to May of this year, working with students from the Cesar Chavez Charter School. To obtain an audio copy of the student's PSA, call the Peace Center office at 202.234.2000.

Save the
date!

Washington Peace Center 40th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, November 13

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Quaker Meeting House - 2000 S St NW

To volunteer or for information, 202-234-2000 - wpc@igc.org

The Return of the Draft?

By Scott Schwertscharf

We have heard stories from our parents about their experiences during the Vietnam era draft. We have watched political debates about who served and who didn't; who got drafted and who draft-dodged. But in the end, I do not think many of my peers have seriously contemplated the possibility of being drafted into the military themselves.

At age 18, we registered with the Selective Service System. Some of us may have been proud to have reached the age of responsibility for serving the country. Some of us may have felt some defiance, but we sent in the card anyway under the threat of losing student loans. Some of us wondered what we would do if we had been in our parents' situation, or if the draft were to be reinstated tomorrow. Most of us didn't give it a second thought.

Now it is necessary for members of my generation (people under 25) to take a look within ourselves and take some time to consider the possibility of a draft and the consequences of this outcome.

It would seem that the draft presents people with a simple scenario: you get drafted, you go to war. But in reality, there is nothing simple about it.

One might start by questioning the government's handling of the military in foreign affairs and whether our actions in Iraq are justified. This is not to say that I believe that every individual should be able to pick and choose, without any consequences for their actions, when they will accept a draft and when they won't. However, it is still important for one to understand the causes and justifications of the conflict and to develop a personal position.

Although it is not presented as a choice, anyone who is drafted must decide whether or not they will comply with the command to go to war. There are many paths available to people who are not willing to fight. One approach would be to apply for conscientious objector status. However, the Selective Service System states that conscientious objector status will not be conferred based on "politics, expediency, or self-interest."

Some questions naturally arise. What about somebody who conscientiously objects to militarism, the use of false and distorted intelligence to take a country to war, and the profiteering of defense contractors and weapons manufacturers? What about somebody who would support UN intervention in Iraq, but not a unilateral US invasion? It seems that conscientious objector status is a narrowly defined category and not everyone who objects to the current conflict would be covered.

The conclusion that I have come to is that this war not justifiable. I am opposed to the fact that the United States is a country that has troops all over the world, and unilaterally employs them for its purposes. The United States has invaded a country that it had no right to invade. Our elected leaders have distorted intelligence to justify their actions. Thousands of people are dying and the only benefactor is the extraordinarily influential defense industry.

If there were to be a draft right now, it would be because the United States is involved militarily in places where it should not be. It would mean that

Americans who oppose the war and current American foreign policy would be forced to fight and die in a situation that could have and should have been avoided. I am wholeheartedly against the current administration's foreign policy, and I cannot imagine killing another human being or risking my life for what I believe is a morally unjustifiable cause.

What this comes down to is that I will never carry a gun in Iraq. I will never kill a soldier or civilian in Iraq. I will not fight for the Bush Administration.

This decision carries with it enormous consequences. I wouldn't be able to finish my education at Cornell University. I would have to face the fact that I might not even be able to live in the country I was born in, that my family lives in, and that has molded the meaning and direction of my life.

These are things that I would give up for my beliefs. But there is something else that would weigh even heavier on my mind. If I were to avoid a draft there would be another kid my age that would have to take my place; another kid that would have to risk his life for a cause that he might oppose just as adamantly. I can't justify this in my mind.

I don't want my brother, my friends, or anybody to have to make these decisions that I have been contemplating. Despite official assurances that the draft will not be needed to support our struggling troops, I think it is important for people to think about the possibility, and the consequences that it would entail. I think every citizen should know where he or she stands on the issue. And anybody who feels the way I do about the war in Iraq had better start worrying and doing everything in their power to make sure that the possibility of a draft does not become a reality.

Scott Schwertscharf is a student at Cornell University concerned about the effects of a draft on his generation. He interned briefly this summer at the Washington Peace Center.

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Soldiers *(continued from p. 3)*

To What Effect?

Interestingly, there was no significant rise in enlistment after the 9/11 attacks. In fact, prior to being sent to war, an average of 200 GI's were going AWOL every month. Troops in the field and their families at home are extremely dissatisfied with the poor medical treatment, slow rotation of duty, and failure to provide minimal protective equipment. Military Families Speak Out formed spontaneously before war broke out, and represents thousands of people concerned about their loved ones. Stars and Stripes, a popular magazine aimed at GIs, reported on a poll taken on the ground in the war zones that showed 69% of Army reservists do not plan to re-enlist when their current term of duty ends. Retention is becoming more of a problem than meeting recruiting goals. Patience is stretched thin. Veterans returning to VA hospitals are forced to pay for their food during recovery; soldiers in the field have to buy their own armor.

"The poverty draft bill is poorly drafted, and violates the rights of conscientious objectors."

There is the public perception that the poverty draft does not fairly distribute the burdens of military work and risks across the social spectrum. Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY) used this logic to introduce a bill for universal conscription, believing that Congress members would be less likely to vote in favor of war if their own children had to fight. The bill is poorly drafted, violates the rights of conscientious objectors, and is sitting in Committee along with its counterpart in the Senate that was introduced by Sen. Hollingsworth (R-GA). There are renewed calls, from both sides of the congressional aisle, for either a military draft or for involuntary national service that would allow civilian options.

The language of the proposed draft bill actually reverses the rights of conscientious objectors to war at a time when they need to be expanded.

Military objectors filing for discharge at the start of Operation Desert Storm under the 'stop-loss' mobilization regulations were forced to refuse orders to battle instead.

Some were beaten, shackled and sent to the front lines as they had been during WWI, and makeshift prisons were built in Saudi Arabia to house thousands of Black objectors in the field during the first Gulf War.

Most ended up with punitive discharges instead of their legal and moral rights.

Proponents of a new draft fail to take into account key issues about how it

would work and what the consequences would be. Here are a few:

Key Draft Issues

1) During the Vietnam period, draft boards and the Selective Service System took an even more disproportionate level of Blacks and people of color than the current poverty draft system does. Blacks made up 55% of all draftees and a lower percentage of enlisted during Vietnam, and currently they comprise 36% of the overall 'volunteer' force.

2) It is true that few of the sons and daughters of members of Congress are now serving in the war on Iraq, and that military service does not affect the children of the well to do or better educated elements of the society. Instead it appeals to those who see it as a way to improve their social and economic situation and to afford college. Especially for women and people of color, these prove to be false hopes in most cases. Recently discharged African-American males are more likely to be unemployed and homeless than their neighbors who

never join the military. Not only do they not learn useful job skills (90% of veterans polled say this), but they face a much higher rate of courts-martial and less than honorable discharges (twice the level of all enlisted), which marks them

for life for legal employment discrimination. All this is true, and yet during the Vietnam era no son of a Congressman was ever drafted, and very few ever serve in the war.

3) Even if the only deferments/exemptions that remain in this proposed new draft law are those required by decency, common sense and religious freedom (i.e. family hardship, medical and conscientious objection), those able to discern, document, articulate and secure these deferments will also reflect the class/race/educational divides of the society. I spent half my time as a draft counselor on a college campus, the other half in the poor white and Black communities of Dayton, Ohio. I know the difference in making a winning case first hand, and the obstacles people of color face. Although the current composition of trained draft boards set for a mobilization is more diverse, these factors will still protect the very rich. Despite the penalties, non-registration and exile will again become popular if people feel they are being forced to serve. And objectors of conscience, unless treated fairly, will also refuse to serve and face jail sentences again. I do not want to relieve that era.

4) Even if you could somehow pass a law that would bring a truly diverse and demographically representative cross-section of the population to the gate of the US military and force them to serve (and I would argue you cannot), they will be entering the most

structured, racist, classist and sexist institution in the society. Their placement, job assignments, rank and treatment will reflect the biases of the greater society in an even more dramatic way. The front lines of Vietnam were predominantly Black and Hispanic with a few white officers. This has not changed substantially, though women and white troops make up more of the combat support ranks now-a-days. Fearing the same response that the Vietnam war brought from troops of color near its end, GIs massed at the border of Kuwait during the first Gulf war were never issued live rounds for their weapons, until the day they actually engaged into Kuwait to fight the Iraq forces. The educated, well-to-do sons and daughters of Congress will not be serving on the front lines of combat, but would be afforded jobs in intelligence and other work far from actual war zones. The test (ASVAB) used to determine every enlisted member's M.O.S. (military occupation specialty) has been evaluated by educational testing experts, who say it is both race and gender biased. Thus, even if you could draft in a diverse swath of society, the roles they would play and the burdens they would face would remain essentially the same.

5) Introducing a draft will make it even more likely that the administration in power will go to war because they will have an inexhaustible supply of manpower. Claims that the volunteer military is creating a "professional" Army, and the counter-claims that the draft equalizes and "civil-ianizes" the military, are both false. The officers and generals who plan the wars and make the policies will continue to come primarily from the military academies, College JROTC units and to a much smaller extent from those who rise from the ranks due to education and articulation. The lower ranking enlisted and the draftee alike have little to say about the nature or conduct of the military except "yes, Sir!" In fact, resistance in the ranks against the war in Vietnam rose first and primarily from the enlisted troops, not draftees. Enlisted members demand something in return from the military in ways draftees, despite their unwillingness, rarely do. But, a large standing military, with an endless supply of troops to conscript, is much more likely to be used abroad than a reasonably sized and funded truly volunteer military geared for actual defense. Thus a draft, rather than making Congress and the upper class think twice about going to war, will encourage them to expand the conflicts.

6) Perhaps most important questions: Is the conflict based on lies or is it morally defensible? To make an analogy, would it have made the genocide of Germany in WWII more "fair and equitable" if a proportionately representative segment of their youth had been conscripted into rotating duty at the concentration camps or in the wars of aggression abroad? This

may not seem an apt analogy since Congress and a democratic method at least nominally approve wars and domestic policies in the United States, not the President alone. Yet, despite an overwhelming ratio of public opposition found in Congressional mail and communications from the public (from 400 to 1 to 1,000 to 1), opposing the resolution to give President Bush the power to wage an undeclared war on Afghanistan, only one Member of Congress stood up against the tide of acquiescence to legislation giving extra-Constitutional power.

Once a mobilization draft is declared by the President and implemented by Congress, young people turning 20 that year will be chosen by lottery for quick orders to report to duty, leaving little time to consider options or file claims. Some will opt for enlistment, some will attempt to resist, and some will comply, but most will make those choices without real understanding of the consequences or support, just as their counterparts in high school are enlisting in the Delayed Entry Program before they know their options, and being threatened when they change their minds.

Selective Service is still funded on a "standby" basis, and it maintains lists of registrants and works to insure that all males register through mailings, promotions and threats. Recently, draft board members chosen in the early 80's have exhausted their 20-year terms, and there was a massive push to replace them that raised fear of an imminent draft. The Pentagon and other officials continue to state that they do not currently need conscription, but hold it open as a future option. Selective Service recently floated a proposal for a skills-based draft (doctors, nurses, computer technicians, etc.). Actually implementing a mobilization would be costly, requiring extensive training facilities for troops that would only serve for a few years.

Next issue: Part II – Alternatives and solutions.

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Saying 'No' to the War Machine: For Information & Help

National Network to Oppose Militarization of Youth
Youth and Militarism Program, AFSC
1515 Cherry Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215-241-7176
www.youthandthemilitary.org
(new counter-recruitment network)

GI Rights Hotline
800-394-9544
girights@objector.org
(counseling network for those in the military)

Center on Conscience and War
1830 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20009
(202)483-2220; 1-800-379-2679
nisbco@nisbco.org
www.nisbco.org
Citizen Soldier
267 Fifth Ave., Suite 901
New York, NY 10016
(212)679-2250
Fax (212)679-2252
www.citizen-soldier.org
(counseling and support for GI and veterans rights)

Veterans for Peace
Wilson "Woody" Powell
World Community Ctr.
438 North Skinker
St. Louis MO 63130
VOICE (314)725-6005
FAX (314)725-7103
www.veteransforpeace.org
(national network opposed to war and countering recruitment)

Veterans Against the Iraq War
<http://www.vaiw.org/vet/index.php>
VAIW@hotmail.com
212-866-1114

Military Families Speak Out
P.O. Box 549
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
617-522-9323
mfsso@mfsso.org
www.mfsso.org
(families of GI's in combat)

Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors (CCCO)
(An Agency for Military and Draft Counseling)
405 14th St. #205
Oakland, CA 94612
510-465-1617
Fax 510-465-2459
or
1515 Cherry St
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215-563-8787
Fax 215-567-2096
www.objector.org
info@objector.org

C.H.O.I.C.E.S.
Committee for High School Options and Information on Careers, Education and Self-Improvement
PO Box 7147
Washington, DC 20044
202-583-5347
(local counter-recruitment, opposition to No Child Left Behind and JROTC)

Bring Them Home Now
<http://www.bringthemhomenow.org/>
BTHN@mfsso.org

Veterans for Common Sense
www.veteransforcommonsense.org/
ashianna@veteransforcommonsense.org
202-543-6176

Cost of Iraq War Counter
<http://costofwar.com/>
Iraqi Civilian Body Count (Reported)
<http://iraqbodycount.net>

DoD US Military Casualties (DIOR)
<http://www.dior.whs.mil/mm/id/casualty/castop.htm>

(DefenseLink)
<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Aug2004/d20040806cas.pdf>

About depleted uranium:
Military Toxics Project
<http://www.milttoxproj.org/>
mtp@milttoxproj.org
207-783-5091

Peace & Justice Movement Mourns Marx Aristide

The international peace and social justice movement lost a valiant fighter with the sudden death of Marx Vilaire Aristide, a noted Washington, D.C.-based Haitian activist.

A Haitian-born and U.S.-educated economist, Aristide dedicated himself to developing alternatives for the existing challenges facing developing nations, including Haiti. Aristide spent many years of his career working at the Quixote Center and the Washington Office on Haiti, where he challenged US foreign policy, and worked with International

Brotherhood of Teamster, Haiti Support Project, International Labor Rights Fund, Brothers and Sisters International and the Ecumenical Program in Central America and the Caribbean (EPICA).

Colleagues at EPICA described Marx as "a grand and dynamic man who stood for truth, justice and integrity."

Marx left behind a 7-year-old daughter, Anaise, for whom a college fund has been established: Send checks to Anaise Aristide, PO Box 76521, WDC 20009 or contact friendsofmarx@yahoo.com

—Roger Newell

Introducing the WPC Board of Directors

Mark Andersen is a community organizer and outreach worker with Emmaus Services for the Aging and co-founder of punk activist group, Positive Force D.C. He is the author of two books, *Dance of Days: Two Decades of Punk in the Nation's Capital* and *All The Power: Revolution Without Illusion* and a member of St. Aloysius Catholic Parish.

Kit Bonson has been an activist/organizer for 25 years and on the Board for 5 years. She has worked extensively on peace and justice issues, as well as reproductive rights issues, in Iowa City, Buffalo and Washington DC. Kit envisions a Peace Center where supporters feel ownership of the center's activism and community involvement.

Arturo Griffiths is a longtime DC community activist committed to social justice issues in a multi-cultural, diverse setting. He immigrated from Panama as a child. He co-founded the Latin American Youth Center, and has been President of the DC Latino Festival for several years. He's worked for various unions as an organizer, including the Justice For Janitors campaign, and currently is field representative for SEIU Local 500.

Jane Henderson is a human rights activist who has worked for 15 years against the death penalty. She was a co-director of the Quixote Center for 16 years, and founded the Equal Justice USA program, a grass-roots campaign for human rights in the criminal justice system.

John Judge is a Washington, DC native. An outspoken critic and opponent of war and militarization, he is an independent researcher, author and lecturer. Author of "Judge for Yourself," he co-founded the Committee for an Open Archives in 1989 to free the JFK and MLK assassination files, and served as Executive Director of COPA until 1998. He has served on the Board of the Peace Center for eight years and was Acting Coordinator during 2003-04.

Paul Magno is Director of the Fr. McKenna Center, a church-based community service ministry focused on homeless men and low-income neighbors of St. Aloysius Church in downtown Washington. He has worked with the very poor in Washington for almost three decades, dating back to his college days. He has been a long-time local participant in the Catholic Worker movement. He spent 20 months in prison for an act of disarmament in the 1980s.

Roger Newell, co-chair, D.C. chapter of Jobs With Justice, is a native Washingtonian who is active on community and labor issues. Newell previously served as a member of the Peace Center board in the early 1990s. Currently, he is employed as a senior staff member at a D.C.-based international labor union.

Polly Stamatoopolous is a DC community activist who has worked on pro-choice, feminist, LGBT, civil rights, and peace and social justice issues, to name a few. She has volunteered with the Washington Peace Center since 1992. She is a professional fundraiser with more than ten years experience and is a twelve year resident of the Shaw community.

John Steinbach has been an activist and organizer in the Metropolitan Washington Community for over twenty years. He is a member of Gray Panthers, Committee of Indigenous Solidarity (DC area Zapatistas), and is incoming Chair of Unity In the Community in Prince William County, VA. He is the coordinator of the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Peace Committee of the National Capital Area.

Ellen Thomas is co-founder of Proposition One Committee, Peace Park Antinuclear Vigil, and NucNews. See <http://prop1.org> and <http://nucnews.net>

Mike Zmolek has served as the national outreach coordinator for the National Grassroots Peace Network (formerly the National Network to End the War Against Iraq) since fall 2002. He is currently finishing a doctoral dissertation for the Dept. of Politics at York University in Toronto. He lives in Takoma Park MD.

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Peace and Justice Calendar

Mondays

Pentagon Vigil Every Monday Morning

Every Monday 7 am - 8 am (if holiday, following Tuesday), Pentagon Metro stop, up left bank of elevators Organized by the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker, 202-882-9649

Tuesdays

Weekly Meeting of the DC Anti-War Network

Tuesdays, 7 - 9 PM
Offices of the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
2211 14th St. NW, DC
Everyone may attend, participate, make proposals or vote.
Info: <http://www.dawndc.net/meetings>

US Capitol Peace Vigil

Tuesdays, 5:30 - 6:30 PM
3rd St. & Independence NW (west end of the reflecting pool).
Held regularly on the West Lawn of the Capitol since Oct. 15, 2002. No other signs or messages.
Pat Elder at elder@chesapeake.net

Israeli Embassy Vigil

To End Occupation and Free Vanunu
2nd Tuesday each month,
12 noon - 1 pm
Organized by the Dorothy Day Catholic Workers, 202-882-9649

AFA Arms Bazaar (Sept 13-15)

Tuesday, September 14, 6-8 pm
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel
Woodley Rd off Connecticut NW
Vigil sponsored by the Dorothy Day Catholic Workers, 202-882-9649

Wednesdays

Women in Black Vigil (MD)

Every third Wednesday 6:30-7pm
Martin & Patrick Sts., Frederick, MD
WIB does a silent vigil mourning all violence the third Wednesday of the month. Wear black, but bring no additional signs. Info 301-834-7581 or wibfrederick@mizmail.com.

Fridays

White House Anti-war Vigil

Fridays, 12 noon - 1 pm, meet at 16th & H St, Lafayette Park side
Dorothy Day Catholic Workers, calling for an end to US warmaking and intervention around the world and for disarmament. All invited. 202-882-9649

Women In Black Vigil (DC)

Fridays 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Farragut Square, 17th & K Sts., NW, DC (Farragut North Metro, Red line)
Ongoing vigil to mourn the deaths in the conflicts between Israel and Palestine and to seek peace.
Participants wear black and maintain silence. See: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/womeninblackdc>

Marylanders for a Free Palestine and Secure Israel

1st and 3rd Fridays, 10:00 am
Blue Cow Cafe, Thunder Hill Road, Columbia, MD - Call 410-465-3493

Clarification of Thought Series

Friday, Sept 10, 7:30 pm
Vicky Shieber, anti-death penalty murder family victim
Friday, October 1, 7:30 pm
Gloria Robinson, MANNA: Section 8 housing crisis
Friday, November 5, 7:30 pm
Bishop Gumbleton
Where: Dorothy Day Catholic Worker
503 Rock Creek Church Rd NW
202-882-9649

Saturdays

Silent Peace Vigil - U.S. Capitol

Saturdays, Noon to 1 pm
Under the big blue banner, "Seek Peace and Pursue It," on the West Lawn of the Capitol, or at the Grant statue across First Street from the foot of the West Lawn. Sponsored by area Quakers and like-minded friends. See www.usip.org

40th Anniversary Celebration of the Washington Peace Center

Saturday, November 13, 6 pm - 9 pm
Quaker Meeting House, 2000 S St NW.
To volunteer or for information,
202-234-2000 or wpc@igc.org

Sundays

Stand for Peace

Sundays, Noon to 1 PM
Spa Creek Bridge in Annapolis, MD
Contact Lucy at 410-263-7271 or mdbridgesforpeace@toadmail.com
To volunteer, contact: Vanessa Baker at vbaker@ips-dc.org, or call 202-234-9382. Please note days and times when you would like to volunteer.

Cultural Events

Mondays:

Guerrilla Jam in DuPont Circle
Mondays, 6:30pm - 10:00pm
Sponsored by DC Guerrilla Poets.
Come listen, speak, dance, or drum — participation of all sorts is welcomed, actively encouraged, and necessary.
Extra instruments to share.
DCGuerrillaPoetry@lists.mutualaid.org

Tuesdays:

Free Hip Hop Dance Classes
Tuesdays 6:30 - 7:30 pm (open-style dancing 7:30 - 8:30pm)
Paul Robeson Study & Struggle Center, Columbia Heights Youth Club, 1500 Harvard St NW (Basement, All Souls Church), Dance Instructor: Chitra Subramanian. Sponsored by the Youth Leadership Support Network.
Info: Douglas Calvin (202) 489-7892
douglas@worldyouth.org

Rhythm Workers Union Drum Workshop

Tuesdays, 7:30 - 10:00pm
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church (corner of Maple and Tulip Ave in Takoma Park, MD). Visit www.rhythmworkersunion.com/

Word of Mouth Open Mic

4th Tuesday (24th in August) 7:30pm at HR-57 (14th & Q St NW). \$5 cover / \$8BYOB.
Info: Laila at shereen@georgetown.edu

Fridays:

Poetry Under the Stars
Fridays Until September 24, 7 - 9 pm
Sankofa Video and Books, 2714 Georgia Ave NW, DC
Free and open to the public. Hosted by the Blackout Arts Collective & sponsored by Sankofa Video and Book Store. Info: 202-234-4755

Saturdays:

Weekend Outdoor Festival
Every Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm.
Market 5 Gallery, 7th and North Carolina Ave., SE
Info: 202-543-7293
<http://www.market5gallery.org>

African Dance Classes

Every Saturday, 11 am - 1 pm.
Malcolm X Park, 16th & Euclid NW
Open to all ages. \$10.00 per class.
Info: Doc Powell at 202-368-8677

Sundays:

Exodus Ministries looking for drummers & musicians
Sundays
Exodus Ministries is seeking indigenous drummers and musicians to play during our Sunday morning meditation services. Please call into Afrika's office at 797-9127

Africa Meets Africa

Every Sunday @ 9:00pm
WPFW 89.3 FM Pacifica Radio
2390 Champlain Street, NW
"Africa Meets Africa" is a progressive hour-long, weekly radio magazine that showcases the diversity of the continent of Africa and its Diaspora.
202-588-0999 ext 360 202-588-0561 fax
email: africameetsafrica@myway.com
www.wpffw.org

Volunteer Opportunities

The Washington Peace Center needs your help!

- * editing and publishing this Peace Letter
- * organizing for our 40th Anniversary celebration
- * tabling and outreach and proposal writing.

Contact Brian at 202-234-2000 or email wpc@igc.org.

Cafe Mawonaj needs your help

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624 T St. NW
Cafe Mawonaj opens its doors to organizations and organizers from all causes to hold meetings, catering and offers FREE DSL to students. Cafe Mawonaj truly gives back. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT ASAP: 1) Visit us at least once a week, (every day even better), 2) Organize meetings and events at Cafe Mawonaj, 3) Use us for your catering needs, 4) Donate to any of our programs if you're unable to come, 5) Tell others about this wonderful community project. When you go out to eat or have a good time, go to Cafe Mawonaj. Book Space or Catering, call 202.332.4480. (Also info at www.washingtonpeacecenter.org)

SALSA needs your help

open ended
733 15th St. NW, # 1020
Calling all volunteers! If you have an extra hour or two between noon and 7pm M-F, SALSA needs your help! As part of our continuing efforts to make SALSA the best it can be, we ask students to fill out class evaluations at the end of each class session. Volunteers receive a free SALSA class for every two hours of work they contribute. (Hours must be completed before the free class is taken.)

Daily Vigils

The Sudan Campaign

Weekdays at 12 noon
Sudanese Embassy, 2210 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Christian Solidarity International
Sudan Campaign daily demonstrations and nonviolent civil disobedience to Stop the Genocide and Free the Slaves, and to call for humanitarian intervention in Darfur and opposition to genocide in Sudan.
Go to www.darfurgenocide.org/
Call 202-498-8644

White House Antinuclear Vigil

Every day and night since 1981
Lafayette (Peace) Park, 1601 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
See <http://prop1.org>
Email prop1@prop1.org
Call 202-682-4282; join anytime!

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dcmayday@aol.com