

2008/2009 HIGHLIGHTS...

Seen us around town? Here are some of the more public aspects of our work from the past year!

- Hosting Iraq veteran and war resistor Camilo Mejia in DC for a book-signing of his new memoir, *Road from Ar Ramadi*.
- Participating in and supporting Witness Against Torture's day of action protesting Guantanamo Bay prison camp. Two Peace Center Board members were arrested at the Supreme Court and were sentenced to jail time for taking a stand against torture. Also spoke at and supported TASSC's annual Survivor Week in solidarity with torture survivors.
- Hosting a summer film series with Foundry Church entitled "The Cost of War."
- Attending the RNC in Minneapolis, MN, where we participated in, blogged about, and bore witness to the protests and police brutality that defined the convention. Additionally, we organized the DC area report-back from the RNC in order to learn from our experiences.
- Hosting commemorative services on the anniversary of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to stand witness for the end of nuclear proliferation.
- Co-sponsoring protests and a shadow summit to resist the G20 Summit in Washington DC in the fall and the IMF/World Bank meetings in the spring.

2009 Coordinating Board

Alexis Baden-Meyer, Chantelle Bateman, Pedro Cruz,
Bette Rainbow Hoover, Paul Magno, Cesar Maxit,
David Thurston, Jane Zara

Our deepest thanks!

Board members who stepped down in the past year:
Kit Bonson, Paul Pumphrey, Ellen Thomas,
Pete Perry, Malachy Kilbride

...2008/2009 HIGHLIGHTS

- Hosting a public forum on the illegal spying by the Maryland State Police on non-violent activists, including some of our Board members. This forum has since led to the creation of the DC Bill of Rights Coalition, which successfully defeated the proposed institution of bag searches on Metro.
- Hosting the DreamBridge concert project at UDC, a benefit program for victims of Agent Orange in Vietnam who still suffer the consequences of our use of chemical weapons.
- Hosting world-famous prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi in a speaking event to promote his new book, *The Prosecution of George W. Bush for Murder*.
- Supporting and co-sponsoring the movement to re-open Franklin Shelter, the last downtown city-run homeless shelter that Mayor Fenty closed in the fall. We have provided legal and logistical support, outreach and material design and production.
- Hosting monthly coalition meetings of peace and justice groups as part of the Activist Coalition of DC and bringing many disparate groups to create a progressive presence at Inauguration 2009.
- Organizing the progressive presence with allies at Inauguration 2009 through our Inauguration Action Center and our infamous "Mr. President, I Hope For ____" signs that invited attendees to fill in their hopes for the new administration.

Here's to peace in 2009!

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THE WASHINGTON PEACE CENTER



ANNUAL REPORT

MAY 2008-MAY 2009

*CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF
WORKING FOR PEACE AND
JUSTICE.*

www.washingtonpeacecenter.org

THE WASHINGTON PEACE CENTER

The Washington Peace Center is a multi-issue, grassroots, and anti-racist organization working for peace, justice and nonviolent social change in metropolitan Washington D.C.

2008/2009 Report

2008 was a year of celebration as the Bush era came to a close and a new generation of politicians was elected who agreed with the progressive community on many fundamental issues. True change suddenly became possible - but only if there were a strong and organized movement of the people keeping the pressure on. The Peace Center and our allies have been thinking strategically about how to make this moment the turning point in our struggle against injustice.

2008 was also a year of transition and growth for the Washington Peace Center. As we celebrated our 45th year of working for peace with justice, some of our longest-standing board members stepped down, making room for new creative energy within the organization. We instituted biannual board retreats where we set strategic programmatic and organizational goals.

We have worked hard to diversify the board and staff in terms of race, gender, ethnicity, age and organizational affiliations and currently have a strong and diverse, yet cohesive board.

We solidified our role as a coalition builder and resource center for activists and organizations. We created an online resource guide for activists and held monthly coalition meetings of peace and justice activists in the DC area, working to improve collaboration and communication within the progressive community.

We led the coalition's efforts on Inauguration Day to create a progressive presence in DC through the Inauguration Action Center where organizations could table and gather, and through the 1000's of signs we printed that said "Mr. President, I HOPE for _____. Let's Make it Happen!"

We invited the Inauguration crowds to fill in their own wishes for the Obama administration and gave them resources to get involved in the movement and turn all that *hope* into *action*. Our signs were a huge hit with the crowds and the media - even getting a mention in Maureen Dowd's column in the NY Times!

Throughout the year, we also organized and sponsored actions and educational events on many issues, updated weekly our online calendar listing over 100 progressive events in the DC area and re-designed and published our quarterly newspaper, the Washington Peace Letter.

Technologically, we updated and redesigned our website, making it more user-friendly and accessible, and also upgraded our communication software that sends our weekly email to almost 2000 people, enabling us to expand our list and re-engage our members.

In the office, we hired two young and experienced coordinators who had strong backgrounds organizing in both the peace and justice worlds, Sonia Silbert and Virginia Leavell. They have brought vibrant energy and creativity to the Peace Center and have been dedicated to growing the organization and making it a vital part of the DC activist community.

Programmatically, the Washington Peace Center has started a new GI Resistance and Support campaign with our allies in Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) and another civilian ally group, DCOI (Directly Confronting the Occupation of Iraq).

The campaign aims to withdraw military support for the wars, develop a strong support network for war resisters and build an alliance between active duty service members, veterans and civilians. We are excited to continue doing such crucial work with great allies!

2008 Financial Summary

Income:

Peace Letter	1,190
Individual Contributions	19,521
Events	5,131
Grants	20,000
Fiscal Sponsorship Receipts	18,474
Fiscal Sponsorship Fees	1,970
Hiroshima-Nagasaki Committee	20,724
Copier Income	425
Misc Income	431
TOTAL	\$87,866

Expenses:

Peace Letter	2,245
Fundraising	2,193
Educational Events	2,156
Personnel	22,381
Office	11,666
Fiscal Sponsorship Disbursements	19,314
Hiroshima-Nagasaki Committee	15,151
Travel	1,420
Misc Expenses	734
TOTAL	\$77,260

