

Peace Center Report

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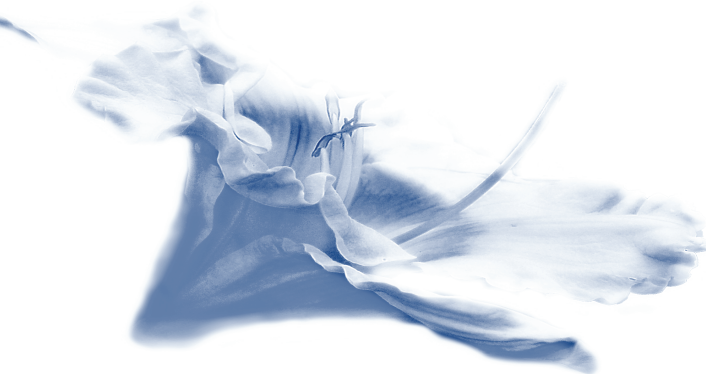
FROM ELEA'S DESK: A GROWING HUNGER FOR JUSTICE

Under Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food." Yet, with close to half of the world's population, 2.8 billion people, surviving on less than \$2 a day – 1.2 billion of these people living on less than \$1 a day – the growing global food crisis threatens the health and lives of billions of people who are unable to pay increasing food costs.

The World Bank reported last week that over the past 3 years global food prices have risen more than 80%. Since 2006 the price of corn has doubled. Worldwide the cost of dairy is up by 80%, cooking oils 50%, grains 42% and the market price for beans is 5 times higher than 2 years ago. Rice, a food staple for billions of people, has increased by 147% this year. The World Bank also reported that as food prices continue to rise in the coming years, "dozens of nations may face social unrest so severe that governments could be toppled." So far this year numerous countries have felt this potential as citizens have engaged in protest or civil unrest in response to food prices: Indonesia, Egypt, Mexico, Cameroon, Burkina Faso, the Philippines, Haiti, the Ivory Coast, Senegal, Ethiopia, Pakistan, and El Salvador.

On April 22, 2008, the Coast Guard recovered the 15th body from a boat crash near Nassau. It is believed that there were 27 refugees on the boat from Haiti. One of the three survivors used a body as a float to stay alive.

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LET YOUR REBATE STIMULATE IN UNANTICIPATED WAYS

In the United States, charitable organizations are heavily relied upon for a multitude of social programs. In essence, we subsidize the efforts of our government by funding organizations of our choosing. In many other developed countries, the populace relies entirely on their government for these programs, paying higher taxes to fund them. So historically, in this country, giving to charities is *almost* like choosing where your tax dollars are spent!

We all feel the pressures of a sinking economy, but violence is a preventable use of precious resources: whether it's funding an abhorrent war or assisting your victimized neighbor. The WNY Peace Center focuses on these issues and the myriad of issues between. So doesn't it make sense, when money is tight, to contribute to an organization that works to remedy one of the major factors contributing to our current economic woes?

Many are about to receive an "Economic Stimulus Rebate". So you will soon have a very real opportunity to choose where YOUR tax dollars go! Help us stimulate the economy by sharing your tax rebate with the WNY Peace Center!

-Nanette Cosby

THE ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR'S NOTES ON INSIDE JOKES

Wayne and Hillary sittin' in a tree, K-I-S-S-I-N-G. There are now quite a few inside jokes running around the Peace Center. For example, Wayne Alt's disdain for Hillary Clinton has been an endless source of fun, especially for me.

We also joke a lot about how every time Elea's email inbox fills up she receives 5-10 calls about it in the space of an hour. Also filling the Peace Center with laughter are quotes from the movie *Office Space*, about the things we would like to do to various office equipment when it isn't working properly. We have fun because we love our job!

We have received enormous support from our membership in the last few months despite the slowing economy. It has served to energize and excite us about the future of the Peace Center. I love this job and the people I work with; it is rare that a college student would have the opportunity to have a professional job that also happens to be their passion. I am extremely lucky.

Thank you everyone for your support!

-Irene Morrison

PEACE ACTION TASKFORCE

PEACE ACTION TASKFORCE REPORT

By Irene Morrison

The Peace Action Taskforce has seen some exciting successes in the first quarter of 2008. We have focused on three things: the Erie County Resolution against the War in Iraq, our monthly film screenings, and Coalition building.

The Erie County Resolution is nearly ready to be submitted to the county, with Legislator Maria Whyte sponsoring the resolution and being very helpful in creating and editing the proposal. Legislator Betty Jean Grant has expressed interest in cosponsoring the legislation. The Taskforce has also distributed letters to legislators' constituents, expressing their support for the resolution. We hope to submit the resolution within the next few months, and have the backing of over 20 peace and

social justice organizations in the area.

On the film screenings front, I am somewhat disappointed to announce that we are now moving the screenings from monthly to quarterly due to low attendance. The next screening after the April 29 screening of *A Force More Powerful* will be held in August, with details to follow. Our screenings are educational, informative, and free, so I hope to see you there!

In perhaps the most exciting news to report: the Taskforce's involvement in a local peace, justice, and anti-war coalition has been rewarding and successful. As a coalition, we planned the very inspiring March 22nd anti-war caravan and rally, and are currently involved in planning the upcoming Peace Yearnings walk on May 24. We hope to continue bringing you exciting events in 2008!

"You must be the change you want to see in the world."
-Mahatma Gandhi

MARCH TO A DIFFERENT DRUMMER: WALK AND FT. DRUM SPRING FESTIVAL

By Victoria Ross

Citizens from all over the state are walking for 10 days –120 miles— across NYS to support active duty military personnel and veterans as we speak out against the current illegal and immoral war. The walkers begin their "March to a Different Drummer" (also the name of a Watertown café sponsored by Citizen Soldier supporting enlisted personnel in challenging militarism) on May 8th.

People are walking from Rochester, Ithaca, and Utica, and caravanning from the North, to converge in Watertown on March 17th, Armed Forces Day. There we will watch the parade in morning and hold a Spring Festival that afternoon for soldiers and their fami-

lies, where entertainment as well as information (regarding benefits, PTSD, etc.) will be provided.

We will enjoy the hospitality of churches, schools, and other interested groups and individuals, share communal suppers provided by our hosts each evening, and listen to Iraq Veterans Against the War and Military Families Speak Out.

Workshops on topics of general interest to peace activists will also be provided by Veterans for Peace (including the president of the board of the National Chapter) and others. Music and street theater are also encouraging us on our way.

Check it out at:

<http://nysmarchesforpeace.org>.

You can support this monumental endeavor by walking and meeting us along the way, meeting us in Watertown May 17 for the activities being held there, or by making a tax-deductible contribution (checks payable to Citizen Soldier [write May March in memo], and send to Citizen Soldier; 267 Fifth Ave. #901; New York, NY 10016).

This rare opportunity to encourage soldiers bravely working to end this war is an exciting and unusual one, not to be missed. To join the walk—visit the above website, car-poolers needed!

*Front Cover Art: Photograph by Carrie Morrison

FROM ELEA'S DESK, *Continued from Cover Page*

The US Coast Guard has increased its efforts to monitor ocean routes used by Haitians trying to migrate into the United States; fearing that the food shortages in Haiti will increase the number of people who seek refuge from this neighboring and impoverished country. Seven people were killed during the recent demonstrations in Haiti over food shortages.

There are several factors causing the food crisis: extreme weather patterns, such as drought and flooding, which took millions of acres of crops; increasing demand from countries with large populations, where meat consumption is also growing; increased oil prices, where oil is used to transport food; and demand for biofuels. The global food crisis is not caused by a reduction in crops – in fact the UN reports that farm yields this year are at an all time high. The question is where those crops go and how they are distributed. For example, right now the US produces 40% of the world's corn, but 1 in 5 ears of corn goes to make ethanol—not food. In response, El Salvador recently had its largest demonstrations in nearly 20 years where protesters demanded “**food sovereignty and security.**”

The Massachusetts Avenue Project (MAP), Indigenous Women's Initiatives (IWI), Riverside Salem UCC, NOFA, & the Peace Center have also been chanting this phrase, as the high cost of *food insecurity* grows. Join us in developing a community response at the **5th Annual WORLD ON YOUR PLATE (WOYP) FOOD FORUM: Friday & Saturday, October 11 & 12, 2008.**

We are excited to announce new partnerships in this year's event. First, *this year's WOYP Food Forum will be held at Da-*

mon College, through collaboration with the Center for Sustainable Communities and Civic Engagement. Second, we are very fortunate to be working in partnership with **Good People Gather**, based in Erie, Pennsylvania, the sponsor of a similar forum in our region. Lastly, as the WOYP Food Forum is being organized jointly by the Peace Center and MAP, we are fortunate to have **Erin Sharkey, MAP's Growing Green Outreach Coordinator, co-chairing the planning committee.** This will also be the **2nd Annual Youth Conference on Food: Eat This – running concurrently at Daemon College.**

Friday, October 10, 2008, 7-11pm, the forum begins with a presentation from Derrick Jensen. Derrick Jensen is an author, teacher, activist, and small farmer. He is the author of *The Culture of Make Believe, A Language Older than Words, Listening to the Land: Conversations about Nature, Culture, and Eros* – a USA Today Critics Choice for one of the best nature books of 1995, and *Railroads and Clearcuts.*

Saturday, October 11, 9am-6pm, is the workshop portion of WOYP. The keynote lunch speaker is Will Allen, founder of Growing Power, an urban farm in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His work not only grows food, but grows farmers: Growing Power teaches thousands of people every year how to create and maintain urban gardens and farms. He will be part of leading this year's youth conference. **That evening from 7-9pm WOYP will conclude with a strategy session** on how to implement the ideas and concepts of the day and speakers.

We are currently seeking vendors, workshop presenters and sponsors. If you are interested please save the date and contact the Peace Center at 716.894.2013 or elea@wnypeace.org. Join us, as recent events show that we must respond to hunger – especially the hunger for justice.

ARCHITECTURE INTERN FROM UB DESIGNS MARCIA GRIMM RAIN GARDEN

By Chris White



Scarlet monkeyflowers and other indigenous plants will be featured in the garden.

Hi – just wanted to introduce myself. My name is Christopher White; I am a senior at the University at Buffalo studying architecture and urban planning. I am an intern here at the Peace Center for the spring semester, and I have been working on designing the Marcia Grimm Rain Garden in the Peace Center's backyard.

My goal with the garden is to establish a physical and visual presence for the Peace Center within the community, and to create a comfortable outdoor space to hold meetings or events. **We hope to start some work on the garden at the next membership meeting on May 18th, and will be looking for any volunteers or supply donations.**

The project has already received some funding from the University at Buffalo's Center for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities in the form of a \$500 award. We are also working on a Livable Communities Grant to help pay for any costs of the project. The grant will match any donations for the garden, any cash funding provided by the Peace Center, and even volunteer hours which count as sweat equity! **I'm hoping for a good turnout to start working on the garden. We will be needing help to move the existing fence, and of course to begin planting some vegetation. Sweat equity will be matched at \$8 an hour by the city grant—but all volunteers must sign up on May 18 so the city will give us credit.**

On April 13, 2008, Marcia Grimm passed away after battling cancer. She is survived by her husband, two children, and parents, Bob & Bobbie Grimm. Marcia worked as an attorney and environmental conservationist. This garden has been designed to attract birds, butterflies and to use indigenous vegetation. I hope it will honor Marcia Grimm's spirit and commitment to conservation.

Latin American Dinner

For 27 years the proceeds from the Latin American dinner has increased humanitarian aid to the many diverse programs and projects in Latin America. The LASC committee would like to extend our appreciation to the following individuals who made this all a successful event. Dinner Coordinator : Eileen Reardon, Other volunteers are: Maxine Insera, Sr. Bette DeCesare, Terry and Mary Bisson, Tom Potts, Ned Cuddy, Jim Metzger, Elea Mihou, Peg Norton, Enid Wright, and Chris Barbera. Thanks also to Jim Whitlock for his photography. There were 10 recipient organizations. George Mische, this year's speaker and a member of the Catonsville 9, made some comparisons of today's U.S. foreign policy with that of 25 years ago. LASC has purchased four of his books that are available for sale.



Support the IFCO/Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba - End the Blockade

In June/July 2008 14 different routes of the P4P Caravan to Cuba will be on the road visiting more than 120 US and Canadian cities. We will travel in school buses, trucks, and cars to Cuba via Mexico with collected supplies as a challenge to the inhuman and immoral US blockade and travel ban. Five of our buses will be named in honor of the Five Cuban patriots who are unjustly incarcerated in US jails.

We will spend 8 days in Cuba attending cultural events, & visiting social projects such as organic farms, elderly person's homes and health centers including the Latin American School of Medicine. We will meet and learn from Cubans at every level about the problems caused by the blockade and the ways they have creatively responded to those difficulties. This year's caravan will also host our second Hip-Hop Without Borders Exchange. We will take many hip-hop artists to participate in an international hip-hop festival, as well as carrying turntables, keyboards and other musical equipment to support Cuban hip-hop.

Rev. A. Joseph Bissonette Foundation

Over the last several years the Bissonette Foundation has financially supported individuals, organizations, and projects. ***The Latin American Solidarity committee, a task force of the Western New York Peace Center, has received financial assistance from the foundation for humanitarian aid programs throughout Latin America.*** Besides direct humanitarian aid, the monetary contributions from the dinner also supports justice and peace work in many Latin American communities. The Bissonette Foundation encourages individuals who would like to support these programs to send checks to: Rev. A. Joseph Bissonette Foundation, 74 Halwill Dr., Snyder, NY, 14226.

Latin American Legislation

LASC spends considerable time on legislation issues. LASC communicates with each congressperson annually to discuss Latin American issues. Ned Cuddy, our legislative coordinator, presents the committee with resolutions, dear colleague letters and communications with aides on specific bills. Two recent bills that passed that assist people of Latin America are the Forgiveness of Debt for the poorest countries of the world, and the stoppage of the Fast Track version of Free Trade with Colombia. We are presently arranging interviews with candidates who are competing for Congressman Reynolds' District.

In Cuba with us will be other travel challenges undertaken by the Venceremos Brigade and the US-Cuba Labor Exchange. On July 14th, we will all return to the US proudly acknowledging that we have challenged the US travel ban.

P4P will also take donations of vehicles, computers, educational supplies, medical equipment/supplies/medicines, books, alternative transportation/energy equipment, sports/arts/cultural equipment, Spanish Bibles, powdered milk, infant formula, dietary supplements, construction supplies/tools, car mechanics tools, and bulk quantities of clothing. ***Material aid needs to be dropped off at 74 Wellington Rd before June 2.*** We'll be boxing the collected donations on Monday June 2 at 5:30 PM, followed by a Pizza party.

Please check the P4P web site: www.ifconews.org for more information.

Farmworker Advocacy Day

New York excludes many of our brothers and sisters from basic human rights. Farmworkers are excluded from such rights and protections as:

- **A Day of Rest**
- **Overtime Pay**
- **Protection when bargaining collectively**
- **Disability Insurance**
- **Unemployment Insurance**
- **Child Labor Protections**
- **Occupational Safety and Health Standards**

JUSTICE FOR FARMWORKERS!

Join AFL-CIO President John Sweeney in ALBANY MAY 20th!!!

Join us in Albany from 11am to 3pm. The day will include an opening program and orientation, visits with key elected officials, lunch, and a march and rally uniting farmworkers, domestic workers, and allies for justice and respect for all workers.

The bus will be leaving at **5am from the University at Buffalo, Park and Ride—
South Campus Main Street**, then making stops in Batavia, Rochester & Geneva

For more information and to register for a seat on the bus, call the Peace Center 716-894-2013, Coalition for Economic Justice at 716-892-5877 or e-mail farmworkerjustice@gmail.com

May Coffeehouse- Free the Cuban Five

7-9 pm Monday May 19, 2008

At the Network of Religious Communities (NRC), 1272 Delaware Ave

The Cuban Five are five Cuban men who are in U.S. prison, serving four life sentences and 75 years collectively, after being wrongly convicted in U.S. federal court in Miami, on June 8, 2001.

GUEST SPEAKER

Lorne Gershuny, Coordinator of the Lawyer's Committee for the Cuban Five



PEACEFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

INTRODUCING... VICTORIA ROSS!!!

Your new PCRP Coordinator

Hello, Friends and Colleagues. It is with gratitude and excitement that I introduce myself, Vicki, now serving as the Peaceful Conflict Resolution Program Coordinator.

Some things are just meant to be. And when Elea asked me to collaborate with others to develop, promote, and deliver PCRP, it couldn't have been a better fit. I am a social worker, and have been working with children and families for fifteen years. While doing what is most often called clinical work, I have always believed that working with individuals and groups needs to include working to change the systems or the broader social problems. Thus, working for peace and justice is a part of social work.. It is also part of our responsibility as citizens. Most importantly, it seems to me working toward peace and justice is part of our spiritual journey on this earth. Thus I have

volunteered, including serving on the Steering Committee of the Scranton Chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and co-chairing the Justice Watch (working to improve the criminal justice system), as well as working with the WNY Peace Center since moving to Buffalo last summer.

My training includes a Masters in Social Work from Boston University, as well as a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy (though I actually studied International Economic Development) from the Fletcher School (at Tufts University) and the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva, Switzerland. Informal study of comparative religion has also been very helpful in understanding our very human challenges and opportunities as we work for peace on all levels.

"There is no way to peace . . . Peace is the Way," said A.J. Muste. And as our children, our young people, and

all of us as individuals approach true non-violence, Gandhi's ahimsa, and find peaceful ways to resolve our differences, we will share in the fruits thereof.

Join the PCRP Advisory Committee

The Peaceful Conflict Resolution Program is being revamped and refurbished, with a new collaborative team approach including other local groups doing similar work. As Peacemakers with a unique view and experience, **you are invited to be part of the advisory group** serving as a resource in this new endeavor. Your input as to content, format, groups to be approached and how to approach them, all will be extraordinarily valuable as we try to facilitate real social change over the long haul through PCRP. **Please join us on June 3 at 6:00 at the Peace Center for Dessert and Discussion of this important topic.**

CHILDREN'S PEACE MARCH: THE PATH OF THE PEACEMAKERS PEACE YEARNINGS 2008

By Victoria Ross

Our children need more peace in their lives and in their perspective. We can help them focus on and build their commitment to true peace and non-violence through participation in the Children's Peace March. **On Saturday, May 24, children will march at 11 a.m. from Lafayette Square to Niagara Square, where they will share the meaning of peace in their lives.** Groups will offer Articles of Peace, skits, music, poetry, and art. Groups will be from a broad cross-section of the WNY and Greater Buffalo areas. This event is a multicultural, interfaith event being promoted by a local coalition committed to non-violence, including the Indigenous Women's Initiative, the Interfaith Peace Network, Pax Christi, the Stop the Violence Coalition, and the WNY Peace Center.

Registered groups include the Buffalo Urban League's Foster Care Program, the Emslie YMCA, the Boys and Girls Club, and Islamic and Native American children's

groups. If you have a group of children not yet registered that would like to participate by marching (sign or signs suggested), please contact the Peace Center at 894-2013 or 884-0582 and have them come to Lafayette Square at 10 a.m. Individual and/or family participation is also more than welcome.

Violence causes incredible suffering everywhere. This event is being hosted to get people to commit to a violence-free community and world. Please come, with or without children, to support our youth in realizing a better, fairer, and more peaceful world.



ISRAEL-PALESTINE TASKFORCE REPORT, VIEWPOINTS

PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT REPORT

By Jim Holstun

In recent months, the humanitarian situation in Gaza, Palestine, has deteriorated from dire to catastrophic. On Saturday, April 19th, the University at Buffalo's Organization of Arab Students dedicated its yearly Arab Night celebration to Gaza. Members of the Israel-Palestine Taskforce attended, spreading news about our ongoing work. Through ticket sales, donations, a silent auction, and a raffle, we raised \$1500 for the United Palestinian Appeal, an umbrella organization for Palestinian charities such as the Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children in Gaza. UPA's programs also include child sponsorship, educational assistance, and community development.

SPEAKING OUT AGAINST US FOREIGN POLICY IN COLUMBIA

By Carol Sundberg

On February 28 the Mexican news daily, La Jornada, featured a large photo of the 4 released FARC hostages of the day before. They were accompanied by Venezuela President Hugo Chavez who had negotiated their release after 6-7 years in captivity. All 4 are former Colombian congress members. Chavez previously secured the release of 2 hostages. Negotiations were in the works for another release through European mediators. I was in Mexico at a pivotal time in Colombia's history, to observe this positive turning point toward peace. Unfortunately, 3 days later, on March 1, the Colombian army invaded Ecuador by air and bombed a FARC camp in the middle of the night followed by a land attack. The final death count was 24 or 25, depending on the source. This included Raul Reyes, FARC international spokesman. Many of the dead were shot in the back.

On the larger scene in Colombia, the displaced population is between 3-4 million. FARC guerrillas control 40% of the countryside, mainly in the south. On the political scene, nearly 100 government officials, from mayors to congress members, are under investigation for having ties with the paramilitaries. Among these are the vice president, Francisco Santos, Uribe's brother, Santiago, his cousin, Senator Mario Uribe. The paramilitary groups are on the US list of terrorist groups along with the FARC.

On the optimistic side the US House of Representatives moved 1 step away from approving Bush's Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Colombia by voting down fast track approval. But the battle is far from over yet. Please ask your congress members to vote down the existing FTA proposal with Colombia which does not address workers loss of labor rights, and continued attacks on labor leaders, teachers, activists and journalists. Ask them to consider Free Trade Agreements that:

1. Are negotiated through democratic processes with effective participation from impacted communities.

2. Ensure that life-sustaining resources like water, food staples and medicinal plants are guaranteed to all and not reduced to commodities.
3. Ensure that access to basic services- health care, housing, education, water and sanitation are recognized as human rights that governments must protect.
4. Use the region's highest standards for labor rights, health, safety and environmental protections.
5. Adopt "fair trade" principles that protect small farmers and workers.
6. Require foreign investors to contribute to the economic development of the communities where they have a presence.
7. Promote policies that respect local cultures and collective Indigenous rights and that preserve traditional agricultural techniques and biodiversity in agriculture and nature.
8. Recognize the links between economic growth, environmental sustainability and building peace.

To read more about this story visit www.lascwny.org

Immigration Quiz

1. **True/ False:** Immigrants who entered this country legally are not eligible for TANF (welfare)
2. **True/ False:** The US population that is foreign-born now stands at 15%, it was 11% 100 years ago.
3. **True/ False:** A survey in WNY showed that the majority of residents were concerned about the number of outsiders in their communities.
4. What percentage of the world's immigrants came to the United States? **A) 25% B) 22% C) 15% D) >1%**
5. **True/ False:** If the proposal referred to as "amnesty" were to become law, undocumented immigrants would automatically become citizens .

Answers: (1.True) (2.False) (3.False) (4.Less than 1%) (5.False)

BUFFALO WAR RESISTER SPEAKS OUT

By: Louis DeFiore

Richard Cheney's response to being told by a reporter that 75% of Americans oppose continued military involvement in Iraq: "So?"

What can one do? What can one do in the face of such cruel and heartless men? This is a question that the late folk singer Phil Ochs once asked in despair while reflecting on the cruelty and heartlessness of LBJ and Robert McNamara, in another war of aggression in South East Asia. Ochs's answer was that we can "... turn away from the filth and violence and hope to build something new someday." But what he left unanswered was that in turning away, where do we then turn to?

Clearly what "one" can do has its limits. That is why we turn to each other in groups. The group I turned to two and a half years ago was the Buffalo War Resisters League. In the beginning there was so much activity, enthusiasm, and commitment. We were picketing two military recruiting offices. This seemed to help heighten the consciousness and conscience of those we encountered about war. It also served to give an anti-war perspective to potential recruits, many of whom have never seen anti-war protesters before. We also had speakers, meetings, and smorgasbords.

But in time a change could be noticed. Not just in our group, but in other groups as well in cities across the country. Maybe it can be described as weariness born out of frustration. Weren't all those Democrats elected to congress supposed to end the war? Why weren't there more people in all the peace groups? Some dropped away. But the answer still seems to be that

what we can do and where we can turn is still to each other. We need each other to end this war.

At the end of every War Resister picket our picketers read the names of local soldiers killed and consider the unthinkable toll on the Iraqi people as well. This is followed by a few moments of silent reflection. This is one way in which we turn to each other. If you are looking for others to turn to in your opposition to the war, we invite you to turn to the Buffalo War Resisters or one of the many other groups in the area. We need each other to end this war.

FIVE YEARS ON- WHERE NEXT FOR THE ANTIWAR MOVEMENT?

By: Suhail Shafi

March 2008 marks five years since the US invasion of Iraq and for many this sad, painful occasion will be a time of reflection and questioning. This is especially true for antiwar activists whose opposition to the Iraq war has been as consistent as it has been outspoken. Hundreds of thousands of us over the past six years mobilized and protested against the war, and our opposition to the war has been echoed by a majority of the world's people.

Five years on, we antiwar activists have to understand what we got right - as well as what we got wrong. We were right to argue from day one that attacking Iraq would be a diversion from the War on Terror. We were right to question the validity of the "intelligence" about Iraq's non-existent weapons of mass destruction. We were right to suggest that any war against Iraq would be a catastrophe for the long suffering Iraqi people and that it would blacken Washington's global image. Perhaps most significantly of all, we were right to muster up the courage to protest on the streets and question the morality and the wisdom of an

illegal war.

But where did we go wrong? An amalgam of apathy and disorganization in varying degrees are perhaps to blame. Here in Buffalo NY, for instance, opposition to the war is concentrated in a few antiwar groups as well as an umbrella of liberal, leftist and ethnic communities. But how frequently do we meet, exchange ideas, try to understand each other's vantage point, rationalize the views of the "other", or even try to map out a collective strategy to oppose the war effort locally? Improved organization skills and better co-ordination amongst the different sections of the anti war movement locally is a definite starter. More collective pressure on the local elected representatives of Congress and Senate would help. And the Peace Center's Outreach programs, designed to build popular support amongst the public at large don't hurt either. A powerful and galvanized anti-war movement would probably benefit from more vigor, more determined co-operation amongst anti-war organizations on local, regional, national and perhaps even international levels. Above all, a recognition and remembrance of the countless victims of this senseless war- over 4000 US soldiers and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis who far too frequently are depicted as nameless, faceless statistics- should be the ultimate motivator for every single one of us.

Helen Keller, once said "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much". Perhaps as we ask the all important question, "Where next for the peace movement?", we should recognize that it is in a sense of togetherness, determination, cooperation, patience and outspokenness, as well as a determination to speak the raw, hard facts that we can seek answers to that question.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

PEACE CENTER REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE	1st Monday of the Month Latin American Solidarity Committee Organizing Meeting, 7-9pm, St Joseph University Parish, 3269 Main Street, Buffalo
	2nd Wednesday of the Month Taskforce for the Peaceful Resolution of the Palestinian Israel Conflict, 6:30pm, WNY Peace Center, 2123 Bailey Ave., Buffalo
	3rd Monday of the Month Latin American Solidarity Committee Coffeehouse, 7-9pm at the Network of Religious Communities, 1272 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, Time & Place may be subject to change, call the Peace Center before, 716- 894-2013
	4th Monday of the Month Peace Action Taskforce, 6:30pm, WNY Peace Center
	4th Tuesday of the Month – Peace Action Film Screening, 7-9pm, Hallwalls, Contemporary Art Center, “Babeville” (aka “The Church”) 341 Delaware Ave
PEACE ALLY REGULAR MEETINGS	2nd Wednesday of the Month Code Pink (Bi-weekly) Organizing Meeting, 7pm, Lancaster Public Library, 5466 Broadway, Lancaster
	4th Thursday of the Month Code Pink (Bi-weekly) Organizing Meeting, 7pm, J P Bullfeathers, 1010 Elmwood, Buffalo
	Every Week War Resisters League holds a weekly anti-war and counter recruitment picket at the Armed Forces Recruitment Center Downtown Buffalo, in the square near the library – the day is subject to change. To confirm day and time contact louis@pce.net or (716) 881-3546
	Every Saturday The Buffalo War Resisters League meets at different locations on a rotating basis to protest the war. To get more information please contact Louis at louis@pce.net or 881-3546
PEACE YEARNINGS 2008: CHILDREN’S MARCH	Every Saturday Afternoon from 12-1 pm Women in Black demonstrate against the War in Iraq Elmwood & Bidwell, Buffalo
	Saturday, May 24, 2008, 11am-2pm PATH OF THE PEACEMAKER CHILDREN’S MARCH Begin at Lafayette Square, Marching to Niagara Square for a fun- filled family event featuring artwork, cultural & musical performances, poetry, children’s peace pledges, and more.

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MEETINGS & EVENTS

2008 WNY PEACE CENTER MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS	<p>Sunday, May 18, 2008, 1-5pm 2nd QUARTER MEETING & GARDEN PARTY WNY Peace Center, 2123 Bailey Ave., Buffalo, backyard weather permitting – indoors in rain, Refreshments Served, but potluck welcome – Bring seeds or bulbs for planting</p>
	<p>Sunday, August 31, 2008, 4pm 3rd QUARTER MEETING & LABOR DAY PARTY June & Roger 28th Annual Labor Day Party, Grand Island Potluck, music and conversation</p>
	<p>Saturday, December 6, 2008, 1-3pm 4th QUARTER/ END OF YEAR MEMBERSHIP MEETING, HOLIDAY POTLUCK & ALTERNATIVE CRAFT FAIR WNY Peace Center, 2123 Bailey Ave., Buffalo</p>
2008 NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINES	<p>3rd Quarter – Friday, July 25 4th Quarter – Friday, November 21</p>
LATIN AMERICA SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE EVENTS WWW.LASCWNY.ORG	<p>Monday, May 19, 7pm LASC May Coffeehouse Free the 5 Cuban Prisoners with Toronto Lawyer, Lorne Gershuny</p> <p>Monday, June 2, 5:30pm packing material aid for P4P Friend shipment 74 Wellington Rd. Pizza Dinner after</p> <p>Thursday, June 19, 11:30am Luncheon send-off for Caravanistas with Rev. Thomas Smith, Board President of IFCO/P4P . 74 Wellington Rd. near Hertel</p> <p>Saturday, June 21, 6pm BBQ FIESTA to celebrate Pastors for Peace Friend shipment to Cuba at 74 Wellington Rd . Music, P4P Speaker, FOOD, good company, FUN, wine, dancing (\$10 - \$15+)</p> <p>Monday, July 14, 9am Venceremos Brigade return from Cuba confront the travel ban via the Peace Bridge & picnic at Front Park before they return to their homes throughout the U.S.</p>
COALITION FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS	<p>Tuesday, May 20, 4– 5:30pm Forum: “Real Welfare Reform: The Role of Education”. Location TBD, call CEJ at 892-5877 for details.</p> <p>Tuesday, June 17, 4- 5:30pm Forum: “New Immigrants: How We Can Help Them Succeed”. Location TBD, call CEJ at 892-5877 for details.</p> <p>CEJ is working with the WNY Health Care Campaign on a story bank project. We are collecting stories from individuals who are uninsured, underinsured, have had difficulty navigating the health care system, and the like. If you would like to share your story and help build the case for meaningful health care reform contact CEJ at 892-5877 or visit www.wnyhcc.org to download a story bank intake form.</p>

MEETINGS & EVENTS

<p>PEACE ALLY MEETINGS AND EVENTS</p>	<p>Food For All: Saturday, May 17th, 1pm Annual Faith & Hunger Conference: Speakers from Hunger Action NY and Bread for the World. Contact Kelly Ann Kowalski 882-7705 for more details</p> <p>Citizen Action of NY: Thursday, May 28, 11am-3:30pm "Quality, Affordable Healthcare for All" Planning Meeting. At The Well-in the Legislative Office Building In Albany. Contact Chy'Nel at 855-1522x1</p> <p>Friday, May 30, 5:30-9:30pm, & Saturday, May 31, 9am-6pm Level II Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Training at the Sister Karen Kimczak Center on 80 Durham Ave. Contact Audrey at 832-0507 to register.</p> <p>New York State Energy Research and Development Authority: Saturday, May 31, 8am-noon Recycling event at the University at Buffalo North Campus. Recycle room air conditioners, dehumidifiers, and computers.</p>
<p>WORLD REFUGEE DAY CELEBRATIONS</p>	<p>Friday, June 20, time TBA Inter-faith service @ St. John's-Grace Episcopal Church on Lafayette & Colonial Circle with refugee testimonies, choirs, and candlelight vigil walk to follow.</p> <p>Saturday, June 21, noon- 5pm Held at the church and the west end of Bidwell Parkway. There will be entertainment, refugee service presentations and awards, films inside the church, and refreshments. Admission for both events is free, but we ask that each person bring a personal care item or household item for the refugee agencies.</p>
<p>DARFUR MARCH</p>	<p>Early June—Exact Day, Time & Location TBA In response to the genocide in Sudan, local high school student Noelle Panepento is organizing a <i>March for Darfur and fundraising for the "Save Darfur Coalition"</i>. To get more information or volunteer contact Noelle at 716-839-2925, 716-868-5191 or spongefreak1220@adelphia.net.</p>
<p>SPANISH CLASSES</p>	<p>At El Buen Amigo (114 Elmwood Avenue): Basic Classes (Mon/Wed, Tue/Thu, Sat and Sun), Intermediate (Mon/Wed, Tue/Thu), Children (Sat), Advanced (Sat) Call (716) 885-6343 for Classes and Fees Experience Native Speakers, Certified Teachers</p>

Western New York Peace Center
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In the Spirit of Peace and Justice

You are invited to a

HOUSE PARTY

for Peace Center members
(and prospective members)

Find out what the Peace Cen-
ter is up to
and how you can help!

7-9 pm, Friday, May 23
at the home of
Gail Radford & Steve Hart
185 Admiral Road (near
Starin), Buffalo

Sunday, May 18 1-5pm

Quarterly Membership Meeting & Marcia Grimm Garden Party

At the WNY Peace Center

- Hear updates on Peace Center events and activities.
- We will be planting the Marcia Grimm Rain Garden after the meeting!
- Please bring a dish for the potluck lunch.