

Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice

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Newsletter

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July - August 2003
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Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice presents. . .

Come Together For Peace Day 58th Anniversary Observance Of The First Atomic Weapons Used Against Humankind

Sunday, August 3, 2003 5:00 To 9:00 PM

@ Island Park (Island Drive off Maiden Lane)

Rain Location:

Genesis of Ann
Arbor, 2309 Packard
Road

Potluck Dinner:

Bring a dish to pass
for a potluck dinner,
and enough place
settings for your
family (ICPJ provides
the drinks)

Something for the whole family:

Children's perfor-
mances and activi-
ties, speakers and
presentations for
adults. Bring everyone for a family evening out!



Lantern Boats: The evening will close with a ceremonial launching @ 8:15 P.M.

Cosponsored by:

St. Joseph's Catholic Church (Dexter), St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, Trinity Lutheran, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Northside Presbyterian, St. Aidan's Episcopal, Zen Buddhist Temple, Wesley Foundation, Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, Church of the Incarnation (Episcopal), Church Women United, Ecumenical Center and International Residence, First Congregational Church (Ann Arbor), First Presbyterian (Ann Arbor), First Unitarian Universalist, Memorial Christian Church, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, St. Mary Student Parish.

ICPJ to March in 4th of July Parade

This year's theme for the Ann Arbor Fourth of July Parade is "Proud to be American." As part of this celebration, Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice plans to honor "American Heroes for Peace and Justice." Our country has a rich heritage of people who have struggle valiantly to liberate the oppressed, secure freedom for all, and promote peace instead of bloodshed.

Interfaith members are welcome to join us as we march with posters of American Heroes for Peace and Justice such as Dorothy Day, Fanny Lou Hamer, and others.

For details about how you can join the fun, please contact Chuck Warpehoski at 734-663-1870 or chuck@icpj.net

Seeking Art Fair Volunteers

ICPJ will have a booth at this year's Ann Arbor Art Fair, from Wednesday July 16 to Saturday July 19. We need volunteers to staff our booth. I've been talking to a lot of our seasoned volunteers who really enjoy working at Art Fair as an opportunity to get out, chat with old friends that stop by the booth, and meet new people who care about peace and justice.

If you would like to help us to sell peace flags and justice buttons and to tell people about our important work for peace and justice, please contact Chuck at (734) 663-1870 or at chuck@icpj.net.

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Waking Up to Peace

Arnold Stieber; Parishioner, St. John's Catholic Church, Jackson; Member, Veterans for Peace; Member, Vietnam Veterans Against the War

Life has many chapters and we, as individuals, are many "people" within each chapter. As a child we may be a son or daughter, friend, student, explorer, loved, abused. As a teenager our awareness expands, and our array of "people" expands. As we live, the more chapters develop. Among other things, at this point in my life, I am a Vietnam infantry veteran.

When I left Vietnam in early 1971 I pretty much closed that chapter of my life. I floated for a few months, but basically I was OK. I never touched a weapon again, nor watched any violent movies, nor read anything about Vietnam. But, in the background, something was there. Not always. It would fade for years at a stretch.

About six months ago I was home alone at night. I tuned on the TV. The movie "Platoon" was playing. My first thought was to turn it off. Then I thought, hey, after 30+ years, I can handle this, and besides, I was curious. Wow. Stuff was there. Especially the kids. The violence was real. I could smell Vietnam. I could hear it. I could feel it. Some was comfortable. I lived there. Some I couldn't watch. But it was there.

The next day I went on the internet and looked up Vietnam Veterans Against The War on Google. I was amazed. They were still in existence. I read things I never knew. I followed the links. More new information. The more I read the more I wanted to read.

I discovered peace groups, and "actions". I marched in my first peace demonstration in Ann Arbor and helped form the world's biggest peace sign. Wow. This was good. Maybe that's why I was in Vietnam - to help others realize that violence is not the answer.

I read more. I attended seminars. I met many terrific folks. I went to DC twice in March. I was nervous. The second DC march was "Operation Dire Distress" organized by Veterans Against the Iraq War and Veterans For Peace. A teach-in on Saturday (the tape is available from C-SPAN) and a march on Sunday. The teach-in was great but the march was the ultimate high. About 500 veterans and friends assembled on the hill overlooking the Vietnam War Memorial (I now refer to all war memorials as tributes to ignorance - not as an offense to those who died, but as a condemnation to the leaders who can't solve conflicts without hurting others). We were separated from the Wall by 20 mounted police in their battle gear! America, what a place. There were reporters there from all over the world. I was interviewed by BBC and gave them an earful. I only noticed one US reporter - from NPR.

We laid wreaths at the major memorials, for all who have died in wars - our dead and the dead of our enemies. In the background, sitting in bleachers and looking very Sundayish, were about 200 politically correct folks listening to "patriotic" music and waving flags. Here we were, veterans, many with their military clothes on (the Vietnam guys with jungle fatigues) carrying flags (some upside down) and signs, and marching for peace. And there "they" were, looking very antiseptic and proper. The irony was amazing.

After the wreath laying we marched around the Capitol and did cadence. Some of the verse were priceless. Here's one - "Hey, hey Uncle Sam, we remember Vietnam. They cheer you on when you attack, when you come home they turn their back." There are many more. The police and spectators looked baffled. It was powerful. The

antiseptic folks stood on a hill and looked down on us. There were some young kids dressed as military recruits who taunted us - I think they were hired by the antiseptics. It was humorous.

After that experience I became even more committed to education - for myself and helping to educate others. I started writing letters to newspapers, web sites and other media and groups. I've sent booklets to individuals and groups. I "discovered" Bishop Thomas Gumbleton and have attended Mass at his parish. I made him an associate member of Veterans For Peace this week, and he was happy that I asked. I "discovered" Pax Christi, The National Catholic Reporter, The Nation, Sojourners and many other groups and publications. The internet is a beautiful thing.

I woke up, and it feels right. Its still difficult to speak out, but I feel that I can make a difference. Maybe that's why I was in Vietnam. Now must be my time. I am a Vietnam infantry veteran and a believer in a better world.



Barbara and Russ at thank you potluck

Celebrating Service

By Chuck Warpehoski

On Saturday, June 14, almost 100 people gathered to thank Barbara and Russ Fuller for their 37+ years of service. We shared food, memories, and words of gratitude. I was amazed to see the strength and depth of the ICPJ community as we gathered for this heartwarming occasion.

Barbara and Russ retired in April from the ICPJ staff. In 1965 they were founding members of the Interfaith Council for Peace/Clergy and Laity Concerned, an interfaith response to the Vietnam War. Barbara was the first staffperson, running the organization from her home.

Even after Barbara left ICPJ's staff to support peacebuilding and reconciliation in Vietnam, she remained part of ICPJ, serving on the steering committee and supporting its work.

In 1997 Barbara and Russ left retirement to rejoin ICPJ's staff. They organized responses to the sanctions on Iraq and the September 11 attacks, coordinated the annual CROP Hunger Walk, published the newsletter, and built a faith-based response to peace and justice issues of our time.

Latin America Taskforce

Colombia: More Indigenous Murdered

from www.americas.org

On June 8, a group of 10 presumed paramilitaries used long-range weapons and grenades to ambush a vehicle in which prominent Embera Chamí leader Gabriel Angel Cartagena was traveling, on the road between Riosucio and Supía, in Caldas Department, central Colombia. Cartagena—who served three terms as governor of the Cañamomo and Lomaprieta reservation and was a member of the Colombian Communist Party—was killed. Three other indigenous community members traveling with him were also killed: Hugo Tapasco Guerrero, Diego Suárez and Fabio Hernán Tapasco.

Four others were wounded in the attack, including the driver of the vehicle, the alternate governor of the Cañamomo and Lomaprieta reservation and a traditional healer. The attack took place at a site on the reservation known as La Herradura, in the Alto San Juan community. The group was traveling to the San Lorenzo community, where Cartagena was to launch his candidacy for mayor of Riosucio. He had resigned as governor of Cañamomo and Lomaprieta two weeks earlier in order to run for mayor.

Some of the assailants wore military clothes, while others were in civilian dress. One of the assailants was reportedly wounded by one of the indigenous community members in the vehicle, who used a personal firearm in self-defense.

On March 15, 2002, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) of the Organization of American States (OAS) asked the Colombian government to take measures to protect the lives of 40 Embera Chamí leaders—including three of those killed on June 8. In April 2002, paramilitaries murdered Fabiola Largo Cano, governor of the Nuestra Señora Candelaria La Montaña reservation and a former candidate for mayor of Riosucio. On June 26, 2002, paramilitaries from the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC) demanded the resignation of all the indigenous leaders of Caldas Department. Indigenous leaders in Caldas Department have suffered numerous attacks in recent

Stop the FTAA Close the SOA

Nov.19/21 Miami, FL

Nov.22/23 Ft. Benning, GA

Economic oppression and military repression are flip sides of the same coin. The economic terrorism inflicted on the poor that accompanies “free trade” could not stand without the repressive military apparatus that brutalizes people who rise up to resist. Those who oppose the globalization of greed and those who work to end US training of repressive foreign armies are joined in one effort.

Concerned citizens from all over North America will converge from November 19-21, 2003 in Miami, Florida to voice their opposition to the Free Trade Area of the Americas agreement (FTAA) and from November 22-23 in Ft. Benning, Georgia to speak out against the School of the Americas (SOA). Miami will be the host of the FTAA ministerial meeting, which brings together the trade ministers of the hemisphere to launch the final stage of the FTAA negotiations. Fort Benning is the home of the School of the Americas, where repressive Latin American troops are being trained as the military muscle to enforce exploitative policies.

Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice is organizing now for the SOA protest in November. We are planning logistics such as transportation and housing, we are planning community building for those going to Ft. Benning, and we are planning nonviolence training for those considering civil disobedience at this or other protests.

For more information, contact Chuck at (734) 663-1870 or chuck@icpj.net or visit www.soaw.org and www.lasolidarity.org

months. (Colombia Support Network 6/11/03; Indigenous Authorities of Colombia (AICO) 6/9/03; Corporación Reiniciar 6/9/03; La Patria (Manizales, Caldas) 6/10/03 via Colombia Indymedia)

On June 9, nearly 6,000 people from the nine indigenous reservations of Caldas gathered in Riosucio for Cartagena's funeral. (La Patria 6/10/03)

The Association of Indigenous Communities of Northern Cauca reported on June 3

No Politics in Prison

Prison officials are cracking down on political awareness. The Associated Press reports that William “Bud” Combs, a prisoner of conscience serving time for his protest against the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation/SOA, was put in solitary confinement because he received and distributed political newspaper and magazine clippings.

Combs's lawyer, Bill Quigley, said the prison camp transferred Combs to the Santa Rosa County Jail for eight days of solitary after friends sent him anti-war and social justice articles from The New York Times, Readers' Digest, Newsweek, The Los Angeles Times, the BBC and the British newspaper The Guardian.

“Even in prison you're not supposed to be punished for reading the paper,” Quigley said, “This gives us an idea about the arbitrary power, and what people consider political activity, in prison.”

Combs told Quigley that prison authorities initially said he was being set to solitary because the FBI was investigating him. No FBI agent interviewed Combs, but a prison official later informally told him he was being punished for receiving and distributing political literature, Quigley said.

Here at ICPJ, we worry about the suppression of political discourse in the prison system, and we worry about what this says about the level of repression within the justice system. Bud Combs faces this treatment even though he has a lawyer, a strong support network throughout the country, and professional credentials. If he is thrown into solitary for reading The Guardian, I can only imagine the abuse that prisoners that are more vulnerable must face.

that Manuel Antonio Ramos, governor of the Indigenous Community of Playón in the Naya river region of Cauca Department, has been disappeared since May 1, when he left his community in the Naya valley to take care of some affairs in Popayán, the departmental capital. Ramos reportedly got as far as the La Silvia, in the Pueblo Nuevo Ceral indigenous community of Buenos Aires municipality. (Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas del Norte del Cauca 6/3/03)

Middle East Taskforce

Overcoming Direct & Structural Violence: Truth And Peacemaking In The Palestinian Experience

Excerpts from Jean Zaru presentation at Ann Arbor Friends Meeting June 8, 2003

These are very hard times in Palestine. We have been working for a long time to end occupation, oppression and destruction, without any political gains. Fear and loss surround us, and many forces are at work to make us feel isolated, marginalized, and disempowered. At best the work ahead seems so overwhelming. Death and loss rearrange our priorities, and teach us how much we need each other.

Many activists mistrust religion and spirituality, sometimes for good reasons. But each of us is in this work for peace and justice because something is sacred to us — so sacred that it means more than convenience or comfort. It might be God, or the Spirit, or the sacredness of life and Mother Earth, or belief in freedom.

The goal of those who use violence—whether those who are freelance, or state variety, is to fill our mental and emotional space with rage, fear, powerlessness and despair, and to cut us from the sources of life and hope.

There is nowhere left to go but forward. If we hold onto hope and vision, if we dare service of our own values and beliefs, the barriers holding us back will give way. The road is unmapped and dangerous but the powers of life, hope and creativity empower us to work toward a viable future.

There are many different modes of a politics of despair. We usually associate that phrase with the secret militant political bombings in a last desperate hope that the extremity of these actions would spark a revolution. But it can apply also to those who act simply to be virtuous, balanced or neutral in the face of doom and lose sight of the possibility of victory. They do undercut their chances of being effective, and they reinforce the system's focus on individuals as isolated actors instead of encouraging all to ask, "How do we collectively take power and bring about change?" In our case they focus on Arafat, Sharon, Abu Mazen, and suicide bombers without addressing the main issue which is the structure of domination, violence and the military occupation which is enslaving a whole nation.

We are always told nonviolence and dialogue are key to solving our problems. I do agree and have committed my life to it. As women we have embraced suffering all along, and we have been taught to suffer and sacrifice for others. We have been conditioned to swallow our anger, and not to strike back. Yet women's empowerment involves acknowledging our anger, owning our rage, allowing ourselves to be powerful and dangerous as well as accommodating and understanding. We have to understand how violence functions and how

systems of domination function.

The concept of structural violence enables us to consider our situation not merely at the level of symptoms but more importantly at the level of underlying and systemic causes. Structural violence is silent. It does not show. Television captures the direct violence and most often the violence of the powerless and the hopeless, and it is qualified as terror. One distinct weakness of the concept of violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the basic assumption of symmetry, which views contending parties in conflict as being equal. After all, the conflict is there because of the incompatibility between the two parties.

How might we work to overcome structural and direct violence?

Examples of Direct Violence: Killing, targeting civilians, political assassinations, torture, closure, siege, use of civilians as human shields, imprisonment without charge or trial, expulsions, house demolitions.

Ways to Overcome Direct Violence: Build multiple non-violent strategies for resistance and confidence-building, e.g. Witness for Peace, International Solidarity Movement, an international protection force. Further: expose and delegitimize the violence of the powerful and the state. Advocate a ban on arms sales and production. Advocate human rights and international law. Economic boycott. Arms embargo.

Economic Structural Violence: Restriction by Israel, e.g. road blocks, closure, control of roads, house curfew. Unemployment and impoverishment. Economic marginalization and exclusion. Exploitation of water, land, people's work. Destruction of civil society and infrastructure. No protection.

Overcoming Economic Structural Violence: Advocate economic rights, water rights, land rights and ecological sustainability. Create jobs. Fair trade. Right sharing of resources.

Religious Structural Violence: Language ("chosen"-ness), Disunity among the churches. Christian Zionism. Fundamentalisms. Demonization of Islam. Negation of Arab and Middle Eastern Christians (e.g. pilgrimages without contact with local Christians, missionary movements).

Overcoming Religious Structural Violence: Expose the political chauvinism of fundamentalist movements and their stand against women, as well as their religious and political exclusivity. Contextual and liberation theology based on nonviolence. Work for ecumenism and unity. Disassociate ourselves from fundamentalisms. Education on Islam. Alternative pilgrimages.

I have learned that the struggle for justice is one struggle, and that an action taken to subvert violence and strengthen human rights in one place is an action on behalf of people everywhere. I now

see ZARU, page 11



Jean Zaru, Clerk of Ramallah Friends Meeting (Quaker), presenting at the Ann Arbor District Library, June 5, 2003.

Arms Divestment and Cessation of U.S. Military Aid to Israel

A resolution of the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice and its Middle East Task Force

Adopted May 13, 2003

As persons of faith who believe in the equal worth and dignity of all people, we are distressed that Israelis and Palestinians have become locked in an escalating cycle of violence. We categorically condemn the taking of any life, Israeli or Palestinian. We are convinced that only the end of the Israeli occupation and the establishment of a geographically and economically viable independent Palestinian state can bring peace to the Middle East and achieve the goal of two nation-states — Israel and Palestine — living peaceably side-by-side, with equality and security, possibly in a confederation.

We have long been dismayed by threats to the existence of Israel. We are equally dismayed by the continual military occupation and virtual colonization of Palestinian territory by Israeli armed forces and settlers, the human rights abuses against Palestinians, and the destruction of the Palestinian economy. Devastation of the physical and social infrastructure in the West Bank and Gaza — including the forcible eviction from and demolition of homes — does not quell terrorism. It engenders more. Such actions fuel deeper hatred of Israel in surrounding countries, while causing a major humanitarian disaster among Palestinians. And they leave Palestinians continually vulnerable to expulsion from the land in which they have been deeply rooted for generations. U.S. weapons and military funding are being used in these violations of human rights and international agreements. Americans of conscience must protest.

We do not have faith that governments alone will take the necessary actions to bring about a change in the Israeli government policies described above. We therefore believe that nonviolent civilian action is needed, aiming to limit the present intense funding of Israeli military activities. Accordingly, we will work with those groups who are calling on the governing bodies of our religious institutions, the

See DIVESTMENT, page 14

Costs of Occupation

Ending Israel's Occupation Of Palestine Benefits Palestinians, Israelis, & US Citizens

Excerpted from a document by Betsy Barlow. For the complete document, visit www.icpj.net/metf/costs_of_occupation.htm

For Palestinians

- Under the occupation, Israel demolishes Palestinian homes and confiscates land for new Israeli-only settlements. Since September 2000, 5558 homes have been completely demolished, leaving 543,937 people homeless.
- Under the occupation Israel creates roadblocks preventing ambulances from getting to hospitals and people getting to jobs, school or

see OCCUPATION, page 11

Reaching Washington METF Grassroots Advocacy

By Henry Herskovitz

Josh Ruebner, Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator for the U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, conducted a training seminar for 16 people on Tuesday, June 10th at the ICPJ offices.

He encouraged peace activists to try to engage Congress to provide them with information, and to have them vote for issues that will bring a just and lasting peace to the Middle East. He says, "Don't give in to the special interests," and his enthusiasm is reassuring and contagious. He encourages groups to use his office as a resource, and to organize around our struggles. "15 people can make a difference."

He told us that Congress is sensitive to two things: money and grassroots pressure from constituents, and that is why it's important that we keep constant contact with our Representatives and Senators.

The U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation focuses on (1) restoring human rights, and (2) support for International law. This avoids the one-state vs. two-state debate, and keeps the focus on the U.S. Government's responsibilities in the region.

Josh charted Commitment of Activists versus Effect on Congress, and drew a line indicating that effect grew with commitment. He listed 10 actions that activists can do, with increasing commitment:

1. Signing a petition
2. Sending e-mails
3. Phone calls
4. Fax or letter
5. Meeting in the home district
6. Meeting in Washington, DC
7. Picketing
8. Voting
9. Volunteering
10. Writing letters to the Editor

Members of Congress always read their hometown newspapers for a "heads up" on how their constituents are feeling about a certain issue.

He indicated the sources of current US policy, which favors Israel heavily; this list reflects his opinion based on his experience working in Washington:

1. AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee)
2. The U.S. Arms industry
3. Christian Zionists

He indicated that AIPAC is currently very powerful, but he felt that since they only record 60,000 members, they are a lot of "bluster," but actually have a lot less power than imagined.

The Arms Industry is the biggest player: it has far more money than the other two, and sells weapons not only to Israel, but to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and others. Contributions from the arms industry to members of Congress can be traced at

www.opensecrets.org.

And the Christian Zionists are a recent phenomenon. They believe that Mid East turmoil is a good thing, and that it will bring Armageddon soon. They are both pro-Israel, yet anti-Semitic, and their effectivity is hard to judge.

Josh noted that ICPJ is a member of the U.S. Campaign, and encouraged other local peace groups to join. Everyone in attendance thought the meeting was extremely informative and worthwhile.

Globalization Taskforce

The Making of Deadly Embrace

by Ash Eames, Compas de la Primavera

In the early 1990s, the people of La Primavera, Nicaragua gathered at their community center to speak out against economic injustices in their neighborhood and country. From that meeting came the idea of making a video showing how neo-liberalism, structural adjustment, debt and free trade look through the eyes of Nicaraguans. The goal of the video was to provide an organizing tool to help rekindle and redirect the work of solidarity groups to fighting the menace presented by structural adjustment.

One year later, with help from Witness for Peace, a Compas de la Primavera film crew was filming in La Primavera, Managua's Free Trade Zone and in rural areas. Making the film was an act of solidarity itself, not just with our Nicaraguan friends but also with the many organizations in the U.S. that helped out. Strong support came from the Nicaragua Network Education Fund and the 50 Years Network, which was just getting off the ground. Financial, administrative and technical assistance began to come in from the Newton (MA) Television Foundation, Haymarket People's Fund, Resist and The Paul Robeson Fund for Independent Media (Funding Exchange). Pre-production subscribers numbering almost 200 proved to us how badly needed the film was.

Liz Canner (Director) and Jack Fahey (Assistant Director) began to collect U.S. footage in 1995. She filmed the Bread & Puppet Theater from Vermont, an anti-World Bank and IMF march and rally (called BAP the Bank) of over 1000 activists, co-sponsored by Witness for Peace and 50 Years Is Enough, and interviewed Jan Piercy, U.S. Director to the World Bank. Meanwhile, co-producer Ash Eames was tracking down film from Managua TV stations, the National Archives, Greenpeace and independent filmmakers, and writing an Activist's Guide providing follow-up activities for interested viewers.

Since its completion in September 1996, 56 solidarity groups, 57 Universities, and 26 overseas organizations (such as CEPAD in Nicaragua and the Canadian Auto Workers), 25 TV outlets, 25 church organizations and 5 major film festivals have purchased copies. Fifty videos and guides were distributed to the heads of civil society organizations involved in the Structural Adjustment Participatory Review Initiative. Tony Avirgan of The Development GAP, which serves as the secretariat for SAPRI, wrote "The cassettes and guides were taken with great enthusiasm by activists from Africa, Latin America and Asia to be used in public outreach work. Later I spoke to colleagues in Ghana, Mexico, El Salvador, Ecuador, Bangladesh and The Philippines and they reported the film to be a valuable organizing tool as it contains a universal message."

The success of "Deadly Embrace" is due in large part to the fact that it provides activists with an organizing tool that explains and humanizes the impact of current imperialistic economic policies of the North and of the South's elites. Even now, new orders and inquiries come in almost daily.

To borrow a copy of this video, just stop by the ICPJ Library to check out a copy. 730 Tappan; Ann Arbor, MI 734.663.1870 www.icpj.net

Top Ten Reasons to Oppose the Free Trade Area of the Americas

By Global Exchange, www.globalexchange.org

In recent years, representatives from 34 countries have been working to expand the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to Central America, South America and the Caribbean. The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) is another example of the free-market fundamentalism that has created a global race-to-the-bottom that threatens the environment, families' livelihoods, human rights, and democracy. Once again, a sweeping "free trade" agreement is in the works that puts commercial interests above all other values.

1. The FTAA Expands a Proven Disaster

The FTAA is essentially an expansion of NAFTA. But NAFTA has proven to be a nightmare for working families and the environment. A look at NAFTA's legacy shows why these kinds of "free trade" agreements should be opposed. **Working families suffer:** In the US, more than 765,000 jobs have disappeared as a result of NAFTA. When these laid off workers find new jobs, they earn 23 percent less on average than at their previous employment. In Mexico, manufacturing wages fell 21 percent from 1995 to 1999, and have only started to recover. The percentage of Mexicans living in poverty has also grown since NAFTA went into effect. **The environment suffers:** In the maquiladora zones along the US-Mexico border, the increased pollution and the improper disposal of chemical wastes have dramatically raised rates of hepatitis and birth defects. NAFTA should be repealed, not expanded.

2. The Agreement Is Being Written Without Citizen Input

Despite repeated calls for the open and democratic development of trade policy, the FTAA negotiations have been conducted without citizen input. A process has been set up to solicit citizens' views, but there is no real mechanism to incorporate the public's concerns into the actual negotiations. The public has been given nothing more than a suggestion box. At the same time, however, hundreds of corporate representatives are advising the US negotiators and have advance access to the negotiating texts. While citizens are left in the dark, corporations are helping to write the rules for the FTAA.

3. The Agreement Will Undermine Labor Rights and Cause Further Job Loss

The NAFTA experience demonstrates how basic labor rights and the interests of working families are eroded by "free trade" agreements that lack enforceable labor protections. Corporations move high-paying jobs to countries with lower wages and bust unionization drives with threats to transfer production abroad. According to a Cornell University study, since NAFTA two-thirds of manufacturing and communications companies faced with union organizing campaigns threatened workers with moving their jobs abroad. This "race-to-the-

FTAA *continued from page 6*

bottom” will accelerate under the FTAA as corporations pit exploited workers in Mexico against even more desperate workers in countries such as Haiti and Guatemala. Already, Mexico is losing maquiladora jobs to countries with cheaper wages. In the last two years, some 280,000 jobs have vanished with the closure of more than 350 maquiladoras.

4. The Agreement Will Exacerbate Environmental Destruction

The export-driven growth model promoted by “free trade” agreements and the policies of the World Bank and the IMF have destroyed ecosystems around the world. Under this unsustainable model, many countries in the Global South cut down their forests, overfish their waters and exploit other natural resources to pay off foreign debts. Since NAFTA, 15 US wood product companies have set up operations in Mexico, and logging there has increased dramatically. In the Mexican state of Guerrero, 40 percent of the forests have been lost in the last eight years, and massive clear cutting has led to soil erosion and habitat destruction.

5. The Agreements Will Hurt Family Farmers

NAFTA has been a disaster for small farmers in the US and Mexico. By favoring the interests of agribusiness corporations over the needs of family farmers, NAFTA’s model of export-oriented agriculture has slashed farmers’ income. Between 1995 and 2000, the prices US farmers receive for corn declined 33 percent, 42 percent for wheat, and 34 percent for soybeans. No wonder that since NAFTA went into effect 33,000 small farmers in the US have gone out of business—more than six times the pre-NAFTA rate. In Mexico, the price farmers receive for corn has plummeted 45 percent in three years as agribusiness giants dump their subsidized corn there. At least half a million farmers have left their land. The FTAA threatens to make this crisis worse by encouraging even more overproduction.

6. The Agreement Will Lead to Privatization of Essential Services

The FTAA is expected to force countries to privatize services such as education, health care, energy and water. Such privatization would especially harm working class communities and communities of color. In some countries, these privatizations are already occurring, and those least able to pay for vital services are the ones who suffer the most. When the Bolivian city of Cochabamba privatized its water utility, water rates increased 200 percent. In the ensuing protests, police shot and killed a 17-year-old student.

7. The Agreement Will Jeopardize Consumer and Environmental Protections

NAFTA includes unprecedented ways for corporations to attack our laws through so-called “investor-to-state” lawsuits. Such suits, established by NAFTA’s Chapter 11, allow corporations to sue governments for compensation if they feel that any government action, including the enforcement of public health and safety laws, cuts into their profits. Already, Chapter 11 lawsuits have been used to repeal a Canadian law banning a chemical linked to nervous system damage, and to challenge California’s phase-out of a gas additive, MTBE, that is poisoning the state’s ground water. Negotiators want to include these anti-democratic lawsuits in the FTAA.

8. The Agreement Will Spread the Use of GMOs

US trade negotiators are trying to use the FTAA to force other countries to accept the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). But environmental groups warn that these technologies haven’t been adequately tested, and food security experts say GMOs could increase hunger in poor nations. Farmers have traditionally saved their seeds from year to year, but as multinational corporations patent GM seeds these farmers will be forced to pay for seeds, pushing them further into dependency.

9. The Agreement Will Increase Poverty and Inequality

“Free trade” is not working for the majority of the world. During the most recent period of rapid growth in global trade and investment—1960 to 1998—inequality worsened internationally and within countries. Without debt cancellation and rules to curtail rampant capital speculation, countries in the Global South will remain dominated by the Global North, inequality will increase, and the hope of achieving sustainable development will be farther off.

10. There Are Proven Alternatives

Policy makers and pundits often try to convince us that corporate globalization is inevitable. In fact, the current economic processes known as “globalization” have been defined and driven by a very small number of corporations. Now people around the world are creating an alternative grassroots globalization. Citizens’ groups from across the Western Hemisphere have written an “Alternative Agreement for the Americas” that offers a picture of what socially responsible and environmentally sustainable trade would look like. You can find the document on the Global Exchange website.

Globalization Resources at the ICPJ Library

The ICPJ library has a wealth of resources on a variety of topics, including a growing collection of books and videos on globalization. Some highlights include:

The New Rulers of the World, video by John Pilger. In order to examine the true effects of globalization, Pilger turns the spotlight on Indonesia, a country described by the World Bank as a model pupil until its globalized economy collapsed in 1998. The film looks at the new rulers of the world — the great multinationals and the governments and institutions that back them — the IMF and the World Bank. 53 minutes, Color / Stereo, (c) 2001.

Ten Plagues of Globalization, by Jose Victor Aguilar & Miguel Cavada. Now in English, this book by the well-known Salvadoran popular education organization Equipo Maiz explains the primary problems generated by the global economic system in a way that everyone can understand. Full of fun drawings by Alfredo Burgos and Otto Meza, it addresses the issues of environmental damage, concentration of wealth, unemployment and more. EPICA • 2002 • 71 pages

To check out these or other materials, just stop by the ICPJ office at 730 Tappan, Ann Arbor, during our office hours. See what a great job our librarian, Francine Allen, is doing!

Disarmament Working Group

Swords into Plowshares

Sister Jackie Hudson's Witness for Peace

By Kathi Tobey

It was wonderful to see the many people who came to St. Mary's on Monday (June 16th) to hear Sr. Jackie Hudson talk about her civil disarmament action last October at a nuclear missile silo near Greeley, Colorado. Her passion was unmistakable, her belief in Christ was foremost, and her love for all humanity was ever present.

She, along with Ardeth Platte and Carol Gilbert, Dominican nuns dressed to look like weapons inspectors, cut down part of a fence at a nuclear missile silo, used their own blood to paint crosses atop the concrete and sat down to pray.

"O God," they repeated, "teach us how to be peacemakers in a hostile world."

Seven months later, much of that time spent in a windowless basement jail, the nuns have been convicted of two felonies: obstructing national defense and damaging government property. They are out on personal recognizance bonds until their sentencing on July 25.

During this time they are speaking to various group around the country, telling about their experience as defendants in the federal trial. I had the good fortune to attend the trial this past March and hear the government witnesses emphatically deny that the nuns had obstructed the national defense. The damage to the government property consisted of a 30' fence, carefully cut in 5 strategic places, then laid down on the ground to "expose and show the world our own weapons of mass destruction." There was evidence presented that it cost less than \$1,000 to repair the damage, thus making the federal charge mute. How a jury found these 3 women guilty is still a

wonderment to me! Did they hear and see the same evidence I saw in the court?

What I took away from that trial was the realization that our judicial system is very flawed. It operates nothing like I was taught in civics and government class. For instance, the judge was not impartial, the jury didn't receive adequate instructions, the prosecutor did not "show all his cards" in the discovery motion, and Jackie, Ardeth & Carol were not allowed to use a defense. Many of us around this country (and the world) have written letters to the judge requesting leniency in sentencing... so now we wait.

I have been privileged to watch Aunt Jackie evolve into the activist she is today. She spent many years working in Michigan with peace groups that eventually rid our State of these weapons. Over time, God has called her to give more and more of herself for the abolition of nuclear arms and the promotion of His vision for a peaceful earth and space.

A couple of years ago, Jackie took suitcases filled with children's vitamins and OTC medicines to Iraq where she spent time with mothers and children who were sick and malnourished. She witnessed the devastation of a once-thriving country and heard the many stories of pain and loss caused by the preceding Gulf war and the 10 years of sanctions which our government imposed upon that country. She takes seriously the words of Isaiah: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, nor shall they train for war any more".

God has called Jackie, Carol & Ardeth to serve him and they have said "Yes, Lord, here I am." They call our government into account for its killing actions, demand the

see HUDSON, page 15



Sister Jackie Hudson at St. Mary Student Parish

Disarmament & the Peace Movement

Proposal submitted to the United for Peace & Justice organizers conference. Available online at: unitedforpeace.org/article.php?id=1733#ndis

Nuclear disarmament must become a core issue on the U.S. peace movement's agenda. Through education, advocacy, demonstrations, and coordinated civil society presence at international disarmament fora, and by linking with other issue constituencies, this campaign seeks to move beyond narrow arms control approaches by building broad visible public support in the U.S. for sweeping measures to eliminate nuclear weapons worldwide.

Goals

This is the moment to demand the elimination of these genocidal, ecocidal, and suicidal weapons. The re-legitimization of nuclear weapons by the world's first nuclear weapons state and the likely result, increasing nuclear proliferation, pose perhaps the gravest threat to international security. As illustrated in the runup to the Iraq war, the Bush Administration's declared threat of first use of nuclear weapons as part of its preemptive war doctrine, its announced plans to develop more "usable" nuclear weapons, and its blatant disregard for international law, have made visible the present and very real dangers of nuclear weapon use. In the interests of promoting human security, we call on the U.S. government to reaffirm and make good on its Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) obligations and commitments. We call on the U.S. to:

- * Declare unconditionally that it will not use nuclear weapons first;
- * Terminate its declared policy of preventive warfare as a response to WMD threats;
- * Together with Russia, take all nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert;
- * Halt all efforts aimed at "improving" the military capabilities of its nuclear arsenal, including research and development for low-yield nukes and

See NUKES on Page 9

The Big Lie That Sold The War

from the Ann Arbor Area Committee for Peace,
www.justpeaceinfo.org

"Intelligence gathered by this and other governments leaves no doubt that the Iraq regime continues to possess and conceal some of the most lethal weapons ever devised."

George W. Bush, Address to the Nation, March 17, 2003

"It was a surprise to me then — it remains a surprise to me now — that we have not uncovered weapons, as you say, in some of the forward dispersal sites. Believe me, it's not for lack of trying. We've been to virtually every ammunition supply point between the Kuwaiti border and Baghdad, but they're simply not there."

Lt. Gen. James Conway, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Press Interview, May 30, 2003

"For bureaucratic reasons, we settled on one issue, weapons of mass destruction (as justification for invading Iraq) because it was the one reason everyone could agree on."

Paul Wolfowitz, Deputy Secretary of Defense, Vanity Fair interview, May 28, 2003

"What disturbs me deeply is what I think are the disingenuous statements made from the very top about what the intelligence did say."

Greg Thielmann, former State Dept. Intelligence Official (retired 9/02), Associated Press, June 7, 2003

- **Where are the weapons of mass destruction?**
- **Why did the Bush Administration lie?**
- **What was the real reason the Bush Administration spent over \$100 Billion of taxpayer money to invade Iraq?**

Demand that Congress undertake a full investigation into the role of the Bush Administration in misleading the public and Congress about the reasons for going to war.

- Congressional switchboard: 800-839-5276
- Rep. John Dingell: 313-278-2936
- Sen. Carl Levin: 313-226-6020
- Sen. Debbie Stabenow: 313-961-4330
- White House comment line: 202-456-1111

Don't let the media off the hook! Demand that they ask the hard questions about who was lying and why. Challenge their complicity in reporting false information without independent investigation. Email letters to the editor of the Ann Arbor News (250 words or less) to letters@annarbornews.com

Nukes *continued from page 8*

the "robust nuclear earth penetrator";

- * Terminate all funding for nuclear weapons research, development, testing and production;
- * Reaffirm the moratorium on nuclear testing, ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and close the Nevada Test Site;
- * Halt plans for upgrades to existing

weapons production facilities and new facilities, including those for plutonium pit manufacturing and tritium;

- * Initiate sweeping, verifiable, and irreversible reductions in both strategic and tactical nuclear weapons and their delivery systems;
- * Initiate multilateral negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons worldwide, within a verifiable and timebound

framework;

- * Terminate development of ballistic missile defenses, including theater missile defenses, and initiate multilateral negotiations to eliminate ballistic missiles; and
- * Support initiatives and multilateral negotiations to ban weapons in outer space.

Disarmament Resources Online

Fellowship of Reconciliation

Fellowship of Reconciliation, one of the nation's oldest peace organizations, has an active disarmament program.
www.forusa.org/Programs/disarm.html

Abolition 2000

A network of over 2000 organizations in more than 90 countries worldwide working for a global treaty to eliminate nuclear weapons.
<http://www.abolition2000.org/>

GRACE Nuclear Abolition Project

Addressing the toxic legacy of the nuclear age, GRACE works with Abolition 2000 to ban the bomb, and supports UN disarmament initiatives, collective action for sustainable energy, and new solutions for the health and environmental consequences of nuclear waste.
<http://www.gracelinks.org/nuke/>

Greenpeace Stop Star Wars Project

www.stopstarwars.org/

Nuclear Policy Research Institute (NPRI)

Established to educate the American public through the mass media about the profound medical, environmental, political and moral consequences of perpetuating nuclear weapons, power and waste.
<http://www.nuclearcommonsense.org/>

Council for a Liveable World

Among the nation's preeminent arms control organizations and focuses on halting the spread of weapons of mass destruction, opposing a national missile defense system, cutting Pentagon waste and reducing excessive arms exports.
<http://www.clw.org/>

Union of Concerned Scientists

We use analysis, policy initiatives, and public education to help bring about a world free of nuclear arms.
<http://www.ucsusa.org>

Federation of American Scientists

<http://www.fas.org/>

Racial and Economic Justice Taskforce

Medicare Reform: How Much Will Really Change?

by Ann Regentin

A bill currently going through the Senate proposes to address one of the most serious pitfalls of Medicare: the lack of prescription drug coverage. Millions of the elderly and disabled, most on fixed incomes, lack any assistance with medication costs. The idea is to have prescription coverage handled by private, "drug-only" plans, with a federally funded fallback plan in case a region has insufficient private coverage. A similar bill now going through the House would require those with incomes over \$60,000 to pay more out of pocket for prescriptions, and it lacks the fallback plan.

As it stands, the Senate bill has a \$35 per month premium, a \$275 per year deductible, and once that is met, it would pay only 50% of prescription costs until they reached \$5,800, at which point, it would pay 90%. According to consumer advocates, many people would see no savings at all and others might end up paying more than they already do. Under the House version, those in rural areas, with few options for health insurance of any kind, might still have no prescription coverage if there are no companies in the area willing to provide it.

A recent set of polls shows that, as patchy and incomplete as traditional fee-for-service Medicare is now, most senior citizens prefer it to private insurance or Medicare HMOs and would rather see their prescription drug coverage fall under the same umbrella. Congress isn't so sure. The Republicans in particular want to see private companies competing with Medicare and have written this into the House bill, even though nobody is competing now and nobody is showing any interest in doing so in the future. Insurance companies are profit-making organizations. Health coverage for the elderly and disabled, who tend to have less money and need more medical care than most, isn't a profitable enterprise. Private insurance companies will need heavy financial incentives before they are willing to help pick up the tab.

Inevitably, the most needy would be hardest hit. Increased competition would mean that the healthiest people would get the best, most inexpensive coverage, with

those most in need being forced into cheaper, less comprehensive plans or priced out of the system altogether. Something similar has already happened with Medicare HMOs, also called Medicare +Choice, which some thought would provide better care for less money. Not only did these plans run into the usual difficulties with HMOs, including the lack of choice in healthcare providers and lack of access to diagnostic tests, but they turned out to be so unprofitable that the companies were forced to raise their premiums and cut coverage. Many of them pulled out. Many subscribers were forced to drop out. Less than 10% of Medicare beneficiaries are enrolled in Medicare +Choice and many do not have access to it at all.

Medicare recipients already have a private prescription drug coverage in Medigap policies, supplemental insurance that covers what Medicare does not. Prescription coverage through Medigap is prohibitively expensive, with premiums starting at about \$90 a month, a \$250 deductible, a 50% co-pay, and a cap on drug benefits that can be as low as \$1,250. No Medigap policy covers only prescriptions; seniors and the disabled who want it must pay for other things that they may not want or need. Also, premiums for Medigap policies increase drastically as one ages and are not consistent from state to state. Less than 10% of those on Medicare have Medigap prescription coverage.

The proposed legislation looks only marginally better. It lacks the cap and the premium is lower, but the overall coverage is about the same except for those who need extraordinary care. For many, there would be little or no difference between Medigap and either the House or the Senate bills. Also, insurance plans that cover only prescriptions do not yet exist. They would have to be created in large numbers in order for the proposed legislation to work, especially if there are going to be

enough such plans to create any competition, which is an integral part of the House bill. Who is going to do this and who is going to cover the costs is not clear.

The most promising development is a proposal that would increase competition from generic drugs and allow pharmacists and wholesalers to re-import drugs from Canada, where they are much cheaper. This addresses one of the fundamental problems with American health care: prescription prices themselves. Even when low-cost health care is available, the drugs required to treat even acute conditions are often prohibitively expensive. Those with chronic health problems are often forced to choose between medication and other necessities, like heat or food. Diseases like diabetes or arthritis, which are often easily managed, can become serious and even life-threatening when

treatment is priced out of reach. This amendment could make at least one aspect of health care more affordable for everyone.

Inevitably, the most needy would be hardest hit. Increased competition would mean that the healthiest people would get the best, most inexpensive coverage, with those most in need being forced into cheaper, less comprehensive plans or priced out of the system altogether.

How much help the proposed legislation will be to Medicare recipients is an open question. The House bill especially is depending on competition to bring costs down—when in health care, competition often drives costs up for the consumer. In this case, the consumers are already struggling to pay for medical care. They cannot afford to pay for the insurance companies' profit margin, especially not for a plan that has only questionable benefit.

Everyone is aware that the Medicare system needs reform. The lack of prescription drug coverage has been a chronic problem and with the Baby Boomers reaching retirement age, Medicare as it stands now will not be sustainable. The issue is whether or not the proposed legislation, either version, is the answer, and it's not looking as hopeful as lawmakers would like us to believe.

Break the Cycle of Poverty

What: Brake the Cycle bicycle tour

When: July 18, 2003
@ 7 P.M.

Where: St. Francis of Assisi School Gym

Who: 20 CCHD Cyclists

Why: To raise awareness about poverty in the United

States and engage others in the work of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development to break the cycle of poverty in the U.S. Whether you cycle or not, there are countless ways for you to participate in this exciting campaign. Visit www.brakethecycle.org for more information!

Contact: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
grace@icpj.net 734.663.1870

What would cause 20 seemingly normal Catholics to choose to ride their bicycles over 4000 miles across the US in the midst of summer? Why would someone spend June and July riding a bicycle across mountains, desert and plains, sleeping in tents or on cots? These 20 people will be riding all the way from San Francisco to Washington, D.C. in an event sponsored by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development to draw attention to the 1 in 6 kids in this country who are growing up poor, to the 1 in 10 senior citizens in the U.S. lives in poverty, and to share the good news that the Catholic Campaign for Human Development wants to do something to break that cycle of poverty. During its 32 year history, CCHD has funded nearly 4,000 projects across the United States all of which focus on helping people find a way out of poverty for a lifetime. This summer, a group of 20 people will ride from San Francisco to Washington, DC, sharing this news with people across the country. But you don't have to ride 4000 miles to be part of this.

The Brake the Cycle Tour will be in Ann Arbor on July 18, 2003. If you ride, you can ride with them in solidarity when they ride into Ann Arbor, you may ride out with them in the early morning hours of July 19, 2003 as they proceed to Detroit. You can hear them speak about poverty in the U.S., on Friday evening at 7pm in the St. Francis of Assisi School Gym. You can make a cash or in-kind donations of sports drinks, energy bars, and other items they need as they cross the country. Find out more at www.brakethecycle.org or contact ICPJ locally; grace@icpj.net, 734.663.1870



OCCUPATION *continued from page 7*

work.

- Under the occupation, over 2350 Palestinians, including over 469 children, have been killed by Israeli soldiers or settlers. Over 24,000 have been injured since September 2000.
- The Palestinian economy is in ruin, with over 50% unemployment and over 70% of the people living below the poverty line.
- Israel is currently building a wall of separation between Palestinians and Israelis, but the wall is NOT on the border between the West Bank and Israel. It incorporates a vast amount of Palestinian farm land, locking Palestinians inside the wall and annexing their land.
- Palestinians want to control their own affairs in a state of their own, not to be permanently under the control of Israel.

For Israelis

- Occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and the appropriation of ever more territory over the strenuous protests of its Palestinian owners requires heavy Israeli military action. Military reserve duty has been extended from 2 weeks a year to 5 weeks, at a cost to families, to career time, and a lower GNP.
- The occupation has resulted in the deaths of over 700 Israeli soldiers, settlers and civilians, and the injury of many more.
- The occupation has resulted in damage to the Israeli economy through loss of production and the loss of investment income. Israel wants to attract and retain Jewish immigration into Israel. Economic problems adversely affect this goal.
- The conflict inflicts psychological damage on Israeli soldiers.

For US Citizens

- The US has supplied Israel with over \$100 billion dollars during the last 35 years, but peace is no closer, and neither the Palestinians nor the Israelis feel safer. In May 2003 Congress gave Israel an additional billion dollars (on top of their usual 3 billion in aid). Ending the occupation will free resources that could be used on education or healthcare instead of occupation.
- The US is held responsible because the US has vetoed over 30 UN resolutions calling for Israel to withdraw from occupied Palestinian land, to observe human rights, and to permit UN human rights observers.
- The respect and affection that many in the Middle East (and throughout the world) used to have for the US has declined greatly.
- The US has angered other nations because it appears that we have one standard for Iraq and another for Israel. Also, we deplore Israeli loss of life but seem indifferent to the larger Palestinian losses.
- The US now is a target for terrorism. We need to reduce the number of people who believe that our actions harm them, to support the principles of law, and to pursue peace with justice.

ZARU *from page 4*

understand that our global responsibilities and relationships have a local face, and no matter where we live we can work for human rights and a culture of non-violence. The kinships we form as we do serve as the prototype of a new community that knows no national, racial or gender/sexual boundaries.

We must not give up, for to give up is to give in to the forces of darkness. We must continue to fan the embers of light no matter how small they are, because these embers of light give hope to those in the forefront of the struggle and will keep the work for justice and peace in the Middle East alive. Martin Luther King defined peace not as the absence of war but the presence of justice, and he added "justice too long delayed is justice denied."

Hunger Concerns

Preparing For CROP Hunger Walk 2003

by Grace Potts

The 2003 Washtenaw County CROP Hunger Walk is Sunday, October 12. We shall gather and walk from First Presbyterian Church. Mark your calendars now for that day; but you can work to eradicate hunger every day - here's a few ideas to get you started:

Exercise Your Citizenship

Let your elected officials know that hunger is not acceptable. Learn about hunger policy and let your elected officials know what you think. Write a letter, send a fax, make a phone call, and make a difference! Here in Michigan you may contact:

Carl Levin (Democrat)

459 Russell Senate Office Building United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
PHONE:1-202-224-6221
FAX:1-202-224-1388
E-MAIL: senator@levin.senate.gov
WEB: <http://www.senate.gov/~levin/>

Debbie Stabenow (Democrat)

720 Hart Senate Office Building United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
PHONE:1-202-224-4822
FAX:1-202-224-8834
E-MAIL:senator@stabenow.senate.gov
WEB:<http://stabenow.senate.gov/>

You can also support the efforts of these hunger relief organizations:

Bread For The World

<http://www.bread.org>
Advocates for hungry persons at home and abroad.
50 F Street NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20001
800-82-BREAD

Jubilee USA Network

<http://www.jubileeusa.org>
Seeks debt relief for poorest nations.
222 E. Capitol St., NE
Washington, D.C. 20003-1036
202- 783-3566
e-mail: coord@j2000usa.org

ELCA Grassroots Network

<http://www.loga.org>

Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs
122 C Street NW, Ste. 125
Washington, D.C. 20001
202-783-7507

Episcopal Public Policy Network

<http://www.dfms.org/eppn/>
Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations
110 Maryland Ave., NE, Suite 309
Washington, D.C. 20002
800-228-0515

Faith In Action Network

American Baptist Churches
Office of Governmental Relations
110 Maryland Ave., NE
Washington, D.C. 20002, 202-544-3400
E-mail: ograbc@aol.com

Stewardship Of Public Life Network

Presbyterian Washington Office
110 Maryland Ave., NE
Washington, D.C. 20002
202-543-1126
E-mail: ga_washington_office@pcusa.org

UCC Justice And Peace Ministry

700 Prospect Ave. East
Cleveland, OH 44115
216-736-2178
E-mail: jpm@ucc.org

United Methodist General Board For Church And Society

<http://www.umc-gbcs.org>
100 Maryland Ave., NE
Washington, D.C. 20002
202-488-5620

Catholic Relief Services

<http://www.catholicrelief.org/>
209 West Fayette Street
Baltimore, MD 21201-3443
410-625-2220 or 800-736-3467

Think about how you live.

Walking with hungry persons challenges us to re-examine how we live. We can begin by using our buying power to support companies that do not exploit their workers. Find out more about becoming a better consumer by visiting the following Web sites:

CO-OP America

<http://www.coopamerica.org>
1612 K St. NW, #600

Washington, D.C. 20006
202-872-5307
National Green Pages On-line <http://www.greenpages.org>
A service of CO-OP America.

Alternatives For Simple Living

<http://www.simpleliving.org/>
3617 Old Lakeport Road
P.O. Box 2857
Sioux City, IA 51106
712-274-8875
E-mail: iverson@aol.com.

Think about how the poor and hungry live

Alter your daily life to more closely resemble most of the world's peoples — just for a week — and spend time each night discussing the experience:

Monday: Forego use of all personal gasoline driven or electric machines (auto, washers, lights).

Tuesday: Save your trash. Place it on a table. If your livelihood depended on selling this material, or something made from it, what could you do with it?

Wednesday: Volunteer in a soup kitchen or food pantry. Besides the absence of many of our so-called conveniences, the materially poor have much to teach us about community support.

Thursday: Imagine you have 15 minutes to evacuate your home. You don't know how long you will be gone or what resources will be available along the way. Your life depends on speed of completion and portability. What will you take?

Friday: Fast for one day. Notice how you feel (energy level, attention capacity).

Saturday/Sunday: Fill a large garbage can (cleaned) with water. Turn off the water for your house. Only use the water from the can for all household needs. Imagine if the can was two miles away.

ICPJ Updates by Email

If one newsletter every two months isn't enough for you, consider joining ICPJ's email list. Once a week you will get an update on ICPJ activities, local events, and a reflection on peace and justice work. To sign up, just visit www.icpj.net/email or send a message to info@icpj.net

America's Farms Feed America's Children

Community Food Security and Child Nutrition

By Mark Winne - Food and Society Policy Fellow, Hartford Food System - (860) 296-9325; mwinne@hartfordfood.org

The concept of food security has been appropriated for different purposes over the years. Developed originally for its application to agricultural assistance in developing nations, food security was later adopted by academics and anti-hunger activists to more accurately describe conditions of domestic food insufficiency facing U.S. households (Food Security in the United States, Cooperative Extension System, 1994).

While food security in both its global and domestic context is defined as "access by all people at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life" (Campbell, 1991), its primary field of concern is the individual or household.

In reaction to a variety of emerging U.S. food and agriculture issues - such as low farm prices, sustainable agriculture, local food systems, the relation between diet and health, and limited access to affordable food outlets in many U.S. communities - food security as a uniquely household problem began to merge with the problems facing food producers and the larger food environment under the hybrid concept of "community food security."

The concept of community food security has also gone through many changes, but its generally accepted definition is "a condition in which all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes community self-reliance and social justice" (Hamm, 2001).

Community food security, in other words, recognizes the need to use a host of community-based institutions and sectors - from agriculture to community development to public health to government assistance - to achieve true food security for all households in a given area or region (Community Food Security Coalition: www.foodsecurity.org).

At a policy level, community food security has emphasized the historical connection between the economic viability of the farm sector and the food security of lower-income (i.e. at-risk for food insecurity) households. This relationship has its roots in Depression-era New Deal programs, which

distributed farm surpluses to hungry Americans. It was a precedent that was later followed by President Truman who established the National School Lunch Program for national security reasons, and President George Bush who established the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program in 1989 to increase low-income families' use of fresh produce at farmers' markets.

The growing interest in the meals that children are offered in public schools and the growing problem of obesity (61 percent of Americans are overweight or obese, Center for Disease Control/BRFSS Data) once again brings food security and nutrition to a crossroads with local agriculture. The American School Food Service Association estimates that 30 percent of the nation's 23,000 public schools sell fast food. To partially offset the impact of unhealthy food environments on children, nutrition advocates and school districts have turned to sourcing food for school meals from local farms. While a definition of "local" in this context does not exist, it is generally understood to mean food produced within the state or subregion where the school district is located. The link is thought to have two benefits: children start the habit of eating more fresh, locally-produced food early in life, especially when their eating is supported by food and farm education activities including gardening, and farmers develop new markets with often higher returns for their goods.

While the result of this approach to child nutrition, commonly referred to as "farm-to-school," is still preliminary and largely anecdotal, evidence to date suggests that children will significantly increase their consumption of fruits and vegetables (and other healthy food) from local farms when they are prepared and served in a tasty and attractive manner. Similarly, farmers have expressed satisfaction with selling to local schools because it generates additional income from nearby customers (Cornell University, Wilkens, 2002). At least 68 school districts around the country currently operate farm-to-school programs with many more planning to do so in 2003 (Community Food Security Coalition, Marion Kalb: marion@foodsecurity.org). Overall, the interest in this approach is strong as evi-

denced by the first national Farm-to-School Conference held in Seattle in October 2002, which drew more than 300 people.

To facilitate the development of farm-to-school programs and the benefits they have to children and farmers, the Community Food Security Coalition has developed a proposal for inclusion in the Child Nutrition Act, scheduled for reauthorization by Congress in 2003. Known as Growing Healthy Kids: American Farms Feed American Children, the proposal would establish a competitive grant program of up to \$100,000 per school district from an annual appropriation of \$10 million. Funds could be used by school districts and community-based nonprofit organizations to pay for development and start-up costs associated with farm-to-school programs. These could include the purchase of equipment and storage facilities, staff training, the development of procurement and delivery systems, menu planning, and the development of experiential nutrition education programs including farm tours, and the construction of school food gardens (Community Food Security Coalition, Thomas Forster: Thomas@foodsecurity.org).

The Child Nutrition program, which includes the National School Breakfast, School Lunch, and Summer Meal programs, is administered by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Collectively these programs funnel more than \$16 billion annually to local school districts through state departments of education. The annual food portion of that funding is more than \$8 billion, a small portion of which, if directed through school meal programs to farms near the more populated areas of the country, could make a significant impact on the vitality of local agriculture. And as early reports indicate, the best approach to nutrition education is to begin it early in childhood and to teach it through experiential learning methods. The hope is that schools can help children develop a lifetime of healthy eating behaviors while child nutrition programs can support farmers and the development of viable local agricultural businesses.

Like ICJP's Work? Then please consider supporting us with a donation, a pledge, or as a volunteer. Contact the office for more information.

You make it happen

By Chuck Warpehoski, ICPJ Staffmember

My workdays at the ICPJ office keep me very busy, and I am often too focused on an individual task to look at our work overall. But when I take the time to step back and look at what ICPJ does, I am simply amazed. In the month of June alone, ICPJ has:

- drawn over 75 attendees to hear Jean Zaru, clerk of Ramallah Friends Meeting, speak about life under occupation.
- celebrated Barbara and Russ Fuller's service to ICPJ at a pot luck with almost 100 people,
- organized a presentation by Sister Jackie Hudson on faith-based disarmament work and responsible citizenship to a crowd of over 100,
- hosted a workshop on grassroots advocacy, sharpening the skills of 16 dedicated activists,
- distributed weekly email updates to over 300 subscribers
- expressed our artistic sides as we prepared posters of peace and justice heroes for the 4th of July parade.
- began preparations for the Art Fair, Come Together for Peace, and the CROP Hunger Walk.

All that and more just in the month of June! Although Grace and I, the ICPJ staff, would love to take the credit for all these wonderful events, the truth is that these events could never have happened without the support of our members. Volunteers and donors make our organization work. Please consider how you can best support our work with your time or your money. To find out more, please contact the office at 734-663-1870 or info@icpj.net.

And to all those who make ICPJ as wonderful as it is, thank you!

Divestment continued from page 5

City of Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan, and our fellow citizens --to use their influence to encourage the United States government to end its complicity in these violations of human rights by suspending its military aid and arms sales to Israel, and --to divest themselves from all companies that manufacture or sell arms and other military hardware to Israel, in order to bring about:

- Israel's compliance with United Nations Resolution 242, which calls for "the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent (1967) conflict";
- Israel's compliance with the United Nations Committee Against Torture Nov. 2001 Report (paragraph 53), which recommends that Israel's use of "the crime of torture and other acts of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" must be prevented;
- Israel's cessation of settlement building and expansion, and its vacating of existing settlements in the Occupied Territories in compliance with the Fourth Geneva Convention, which states "The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies." (Article 49, paragraph 6, 1949);
- Israel's acknowledgment of the applicability of United Nations Resolution 194 (1948) with respect to the rights of refugees, and acceptance that refugees should either be permitted to return to their homes and property or be justly compensated for their losses.

This statement is derived from multiple sources, including several university divestment petitions, and from members of the Middle East Task Force of ICPJ, and the Palestine-Israel Action Group of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting.

Regular ICPJ Meetings

Please note that some ICPJ meetings have modified their schedules due to summer holidays.

Steering Committee

Second Tuesday of every month, 11 a.m., ICPJ Office, all welcome. Next Meetings: July 15, August 12.

Disarmament Working Group

First and third Fridays, 11:45 a.m., ICPJ Office. Next Meetings: July 11, August 8 & 22.

Middle East Taskforce

First Tuesday, 7:30 PM, ICPJ Office. Next Meetings: July 1, August 5.

Racial and Economic Justice

Second and Fourth Thursdays, 12 noon, ICPJ Office. Next Meetings: July 11 & 25, August 14 & 28

Globalization Taskforce

First Friday, ICPJ Office. Next Meeting: August 7, 10:30 p.m.

Come Together for Peace

ICPJ Office. Next Meeting: July 9, 1:30 p.m.

CROP Hunger Walk

ICPJ Office. Next Meeting, July 17, 7:00 p.m.

Latin America Taskforce

Second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor, 512 E. Huron. Next Meetings: July 8, August 12.

Meetings at the ICPJ offices take place in Memorial Christian Church at 730 Tappan, on the corner of Hill and Tappan.

If you have any questions or would like to get involved with the task forces, please contact Grace or Chuck at 734.663-1870, info@icpj.net.

About ICPJ

Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice was founded in 1965 so that congregations and concerned individuals could work together more effectively for social justice and peace. Task forces and volunteers carry out this work, with support from staff and guidance from a steering committee composed of clergy and lay leaders from area congregations. Currently the working program groups are:

- Disarmament Working Group
- Hunger Task Force
- Latin America Task Force
- Middle East Task Force
- Globalization Task Force
- Racial and Economic Justice Task Force

All are welcome to join our work. There are no membership dues, though donations are gratefully accepted. ICPJ is funded by gifts from individuals, congregations, and other groups. Contributions are tax deductible.

Tel: (734) 663-1870 Fax: (734) 663-9458 www.icpj.net info@icpj.net, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday - Friday

Grace Potts and Chuck Warpehoski, Co-Coordinator

Upcoming Events

Mark your Calendar!

Every Tuesday—Vigils calling for a peaceful response to the events of 9/11 and end to the occupation of Iraq, every week until the war ends. Noon to 1:00 p.m. Ann Arbor Federal Building, 5th & Liberty. 663-1870.

Every Wednesday—24 hour prayer vigil for peace in Iraq, every week until U.S. forces leave Iraq (yes, this could go on for a very long time). Contact: Anna Sandhu for location 913-0110 annadsa@aol.com.

Every Saturday—Rally calling for an end to the war in Iraq. Noon to 1:00 p.m. Ann Arbor Federal Building, 5th & Liberty.

Friday, July 4—"American Heroes for Peace and Justice" ICPJ participates in the Ann Arbor Fourth of July Parade. All Welcome. To participate, contact Chuck at 734.663.1870 or chuck@icpj.net. *Details on Page 1.*

Tuesday, July 15—"Give Us Hope: AIDS Benefit Concert Tour" Church World Service hosts the Sinikithemba HIV+ Choir of South Africa at Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, 18700 James Couzens Hwy, Detroit, 7:00 p.m.. No tickets, free will offering for AIDS ministries.

July 16-19—ICPJ at Ann Arbor Art Fair. Join us as we meet old and new friends, sell peace and justice merchandise, and tell others about the important work of ICPJ. To sign up for a shift, contact Chuck at 734.663.1870 or chuck@icpj.net. *Details on Page 1.*

Sunday, August 3—Come Together For Peace, potluck dinner and activities for children, 5:00 pm at Island Park, Details: 663-1870, grace@icpj.net. *Details on Page 1.*

Thursday, September 11--Vigil in memory of those who died in the Septebmer 11 attacks, sponsored by Ann Arbor Area Committee for Peace and ICPJ. Details: Chuck at 734.663.1870 or chuck@icpj.net.

Friday, September 19--Peter Kornbluh presentation of the Pinochet Coup in Chile. Time and Place TBA. For more information, contact Chuck at 734.663.1870 or chuck@icpj.net.

Wednesday, September 24—Presentation by David Bonior concerning globalization. 7 p.m. Location to be announced. Sponsored by Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice Globalization Task Force. Details: 734-663-1870, grace@icpj.net

Sunday, October 12—CROP Hunger Walk to raise money and awareness to combat hunger in the area and around the world. Details: 734-663-1870, grace@icpj.net. *See Page 12 for more info.*

Thursday, October 16--Jerusalem Women Speak. ICPJ Hosts the Partners for Peace fall speaking tour, featuring a Palestinian Christian woman, Palestinian Muslim woman, and Israeli Jewish woman. Time and Place TBA. For more information, contact Chuck at 734.663.1870 or chuck@icpj.net.

Saturday, October 18--Globalization speaker and dinner. Time and Place TBA. Details: 734-663-1870, grace@icpj.net

Saturday, October 25--Nonviolence Training for those considering attending the School of the Americas protest at Ft. Benning, GA, and for all others interested in active nonviolence. ICPJ. For more information, contact Chuck at 734.663.1870 or chuck@icpj.net.

Tuesday, November 11--SOA Protest Pre-Trip Meeting to arrange logistics for those planning to attend the School of the Americas protest at Ft. Benning, GA. For more information, contact Chuck at 734.663.1870 or chuck@icpj.net.

Thursday, November 20 to Friday, November 21--Protest FTAA Ministerial Meeting, Miami, FL. Details: www.lasolidarity.org. *See page 3 for more information.*

Saturday, November 22 to Sunday, November 23--Close the SOA! Protest to shut down the U.S. Army Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly the School of the Americas). ICPJ is organizing transportation and housing. Details: www.soaw.org, or contact Chuck at 734.663.1870 or chuck@icpj.net. *See page 3 for more information.*

Peace InSight Schedule

Community Television Network, Channel 17

"Liquid Gold: Privatizing Water"
Like air, water belongs to us all, but companies like Nestle/Perrier/Ice Mountain are trying to take it away. Segments by Chris Kolb and June Rusten, et al. Tuesday 07-01-2003, 7:00 pm, Friday, 6 pm 07-04-2003, Sunday, 2 pm, 07-06-2003

"TBA - To Be Announced"
Subject to be announced. Tuesday 07-08-2003, 7:00 pm, Friday, 6 pm 07-11-2003, Sunday, 2 pm, 07-13-2003

Israeli Divestment Conference-3 of 3
Highlights of a recent conference on the impact of farming on the environment. Tuesday 07-15-2003, 7:00 pm, Friday, 6 pm 07-18-2003, Sunday, 2 pm, 07-20-2003

'Thom's Choice'
Subject to be announced. Tuesday 07-22-2003, 7:00 pm, Friday, 6 pm 07-25-2003, Sunday, 2 pm, 07-27-2003

"Alma Wheeler Smith: Assault on Civil Liberties"
Selected from 4/2/03 ACLU meeting & 4/4/03 Interfaith Council Unity Forum for Racial Justice events. Tuesday 07-29-2003, 7:00 pm, Friday, 6 pm 08-01-2003, Sunday, 2 pm, 08-03-2003

Learn about new events

You can get calendar updates online at www.icpj.net/calendar.htm

HUDSON *continued from page 8*

U.S. complies with all the international treaties it has entered into, and force those in power to abolish much of our military infrastructure and use our country's resources for the good of all humanity. It's a crime when a country as rich as ours spends so much money on militarism to the detriment of its own citizens. They envision a world where the richest nations spread their money to the poorest nations so all God's earthly people will benefit. A world where the earth and space are held sacred!

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"If we are ever to stop destroying our environment, it will be because person by person we decide, by God's grace, to turn aside from greed and materialism. It will be because we learn that joy and fulfillment come through right relationship with God, neighbor, and earth, not an ever-escalating demand for more and more material consumption."

Dr. Ronald Diser, Evangelicals for Social Action

Join us for Come Together for Peace

Our annual remembrance of Hiroshima Day, this family-friendly event rejects a world of violence and affirms life and community. Sunday, August 3, 2003 5:00 To 9:00 PM @ Island Park (Island Drive off Maiden Lane). Details on page 1.

Two amazing women

In June we hosted Jean Zaru and Sister Jackie Hudson. Read about their visits on pages 4 and 8.

Ready for CROP walk?

The annual CROP hunger walk takes place Sunday, October 12. See page 12 to see how you can start preparing now.

Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
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