

New Conscientious Objector Counseling Center

Peace House and the South Mountain Friends Meeting, in collaboration with parents, students, veterans and community members are proud to announce that our long awaited Conscientious Objector (CO) Counseling Center is now up and running. Young people who are opposed to violence and war can meet with volunteer CO counselors to discuss draft registration and receive assistance building a case file to demonstrate their beliefs.

Not since the Vietnam War has the US relied on a draft to fulfill its military needs. Aggressive recruitment efforts have allowed the Pentagon to maintain a so-called “volunteer” military since the end of the Vietnam draft. Many persistent rumors circulated this summer that a new military draft was imminent. Fueled by the problems facing the US military in Iraq, numerous news articles pointed to this as evidence that a draft would eventually be necessary. Election-year politicking by both parties kept these rumors in the spotlight.

There are many reasons why a new military draft is unlikely at this time: the Pentagon’s stepped up recruitment efforts, particularly in low-income communities; the increased use of private security firms and “military services” corporations (like Halliburton) to fill roles formerly filled by GI’s; political concerns about the difficulty “selling” a draft to a reluctant American public.

None the less, it is important for us all to be prepared. If the political winds in America were to change, the return of a military draft could come swiftly and be functioning in a matter of days, turning citizens into GI’s.

All young men turning 18 are still required to register with Selective Service, a relic of the Cold War when the US needed the threat of mandatory military conscription to warn the Soviet Union that it was prepared for any aggression directed at its interests. There is currently no law in place to institute the draft, though the apparatus to facilitate it, Selective Services, still exists.

In the event that Congress passed a law requiring a military draft, the now dormant apparatus would immediately be set in motion. People registered with Selective Services could be called in front of a draft board for the purposes of conscription into the military.

This is the moment when those who have a moral, philosophical or religious opposition to violence and war would seek

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Democracy in Ashland Now!

Ashland’s Committee for Democracy Now, Peace House and local media reform groups will host a benefit book-signing reception and evening lecture with Amy Goodman on Saturday April 23. Amy is the internationally known journalist and executive producer of Democracy Now! News.

Democracy Now! is a one-hour independent news program airing daily on over 300 radio and TV stations in North America, Australia, and Europe. Hosts Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez seek diverse voices of people engaged in dissent and provide in-depth news that is “vital to a healthy democracy.”

Rogue Valley residents can watch it on AFN cable-TV (Ch. 81 Free Speech TV) and satellite TV (DISH and DIRECTV). It’s also available via streaming audio, streaming video, and text on their website (www.democracynow.org), and a Daily Digest is available via email. [No Rogue Valley public radio stations currently carry it.]

Each program offers headline topics and interviews from a broad spectrum of voices: independent journalists, people affected by current events, grassroots leaders, policy-makers, academics, and analysts. People of varied economic status, ethnicity, gender, and perspectives are heard.

Newscasting since 1985

Amy has served as producer and newscaster at Pacific Radio since 1985. In 1990 and 1991 she traveled to East Timor to report on the U.S.-backed Indonesian occupation there. She and colleague Allan Nairn witnessed Indonesian soldiers gun down 270 East Timorese. Their documentary, “Massacre: The Story of East Timor,” won awards from the Associated Press, UPI, and Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Democracy Now! emerged in 1996 as the only daily radio coverage of the presidential election. Due to popular demand, it evolved into an ongoing program from WBAI in New York City. In 2004, over 100 new broadcast outlets were added!

In the Pacific Radio tradition, Democracy Now! is independent news. It is unique on public radio, because it is funded entirely by listener contributions, broadcast subscription fees, and grants. Contributions are not accepted from advertisers, corporations or governments.

Amy has appeared on Fox, CNN, MSNBC, PBS, C-SPAN, BBC and CBC news. Democracy Now! awards include the George Polk Award for Radio Report-

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SATURDAY APRIL 23

Amy Goodman of Democracy Now!

Benefit Book-signing Reception (Time and ticket price TBA)

Public Lecture - Location and time TBA

\$10 for general public - \$5 for students

Tickets will be available after March 15 at Northwest Nature Shop

For more information, call 541-488-7667

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“If you’re outraged at conditions, then you can’t possibly be free or happy until you devote all your time to changing them and do nothing but that. But you can’t change anything if you want to hold onto a good job, a good way of life and avoid sacrifice.”

Cesar Chavez

From the Staff at Peace House

After an unexpected hiatus, we are pleased to offer you the latest issue of Clear Actions, your source for quality news and information on issues that matter to you. A combination of unexpected changes and technology failures contributed to the delays. What you have in your hands is the new and improved bi-monthly Clear Actions.

2004 was an exciting year at Peace House. We successfully navigated the difficult transition of losing our Executive Director coupled with major renovations of our office space on Mountain Avenue. The new staff infused energy and excitement into the programs of Peace House and focused a lot of time building alliances with progressive groups throughout our region.

Some of the highlights included: the creation of the Walker Peace Gardens project at Willow Wind; an evening with Daniel Ellsberg, Norman Solomon and Medea Benjamin; the launch of our Conscientious Objector Counseling Center; a powerful and emotional talk by Fernando Suarez del Solar from Military Families Speak Out; increased access for counter recruiters in local schools; raising over \$1200 to sup-

port a humanitarian mission to Iraq.

In 2005, Peace House will continue to build our core programs and engage in coalition work with our allies to challenge the increased militarism, violence, oppression and injustice in our world. In order to meet our objectives, we need your help.

Small non-profit organizations like Peace House rely on the generosity of supporters to continue our work. We have an exciting slate of fundraisers planned in the coming year, including our annual spaghetti dinner, a silent auction and a raffle, in addition to grants we are seeking from foundations. Yet in order to meet the demand for our programs, we really need you, our community, to help out.

Much of our annual budget comes from individual donations. With your help, we continue the important and exciting work of Peace House. Send in your tax-deductible donation by clipping out the form on the back page and mailing us a check today! Thanks!

In peace,
Grady, Linda and Stuart

From the Board of Directors

Shri Estes resigned from the board of directors in December. Peace House extends deep thanks to Shri for her tireless service on the board. We will miss you Shri! Peace House welcomes new board members Lyndia Hammer and Joe Flaherty. Lyndia, a biology student at SOU with roots in natural history, has lived in southern Oregon for the past 6 years. Lyndia has been involved in environmental, peace and social justice issues since the first

Gulf war. Joe Flaherty has been involved in peace, social justice and environmental activism in Ashland for over 5 years. Joe is currently a student in the Masters in Education program at SOU and works for the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center as a canvasser.

Interested Peace House supporters are invited to attend board meetings on the second Monday of every month at 5pm at Peace House.

A Board Member’s Good-bye

This letter is to formally notify you that I am resigning from the board of Peace House as of today, December 13, 2004. At this point, for personal reasons, I find it necessary to prioritize my commitments. I can not give to Peace House the kind of time and energy that is so deserves and needs, especially at this critical time in our country’s present situation.

It has been an honor of me to be a part of this board for the past one and 1/2 years. I have had the opportunity to work with a great board, especially during a rather awkward and difficult period of time. It once again validated for me the necessity for the art of collaboration and dedication to the consensus process.

It has been exciting for me to witness Linda Richards shift from a place of not believing she had the skills to be a director for Peace House to one of being a competent leader with initiative, determination and dedication. Her willingness to step into a position of power, and share it equally with Grady, has shown her dynamic ability and strong value orientation to the team model for leadership.

With Grady, I share with many, the awe that someone so young in years has the

intellect, wisdom and fearlessness to be in such a position of leadership. I feel that the co-directorship of Peace House is not only giving us a very skilled and dedicated person but is also allowing Grady to be in a position to refine her enormous talents for future positions of significant leadership.

With Stu, the team is complete- a level headed, bright articulate and compassionate person who has the ability to step back and assess from a very objective position, especially at times when there is much heat from the public.

It has been a privilege for me to be part of a board who took the risk to approve a proposition from these three courageous people to revamp the way Peace House is run. It has also been a privilege to witness how well Grady, Linda and Stu have done in such a short time. I have every confidence that the new board members are bringing an enthusiasm and determination that will continue to make Peace House a sustainable and viable influence in Southern Oregon.

With Love and Blessings to all at Peace House,
Shri Estes



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www.peacehouse.net

The opinions expressed within Clear Actions do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of Peace House. We welcome submissions of articles, letters, commentaries, photos and graphics. Please email submissions to editor@peacehouse.net.

Peace House Major Donor Campaign Underway

In November, the Peace House Board of Directors launched a Major Donor Campaign to complete our budget cycle for 2004 and prepare for 2005. The goal of our campaign is to raise \$30,000. We are looking for several major gifts in the \$250 to \$500 range to help us reach our goal. All major donors will be acknowledged in Clear Actions, and on a plaque to be posted in the Peace House office (if desired).

The wartime, post-election demand for Peace House services is rapidly outgrowing our modest budget. In order to continue offering and expanding our programs, we need to raise money.

For those of you not involved on a daily basis, you might be surprised by the enthusiasm and vitality of our local movement. Your dollars will grow this effort.

We want our supporters to know that the continued presence of Peace House is by no means certain. We have always operated on the financial edge and this year is no different. It is people in this region that keep Peace House going.

Kevin Preister

Lyndia Hammer

Peace House Board members

Gaining Access for Counter-Recruiters: Local Schools Begin Opening Doors

After many months meeting with officials from local schools, Peace House is pleased to report that we are beginning to make progress towards our goal of equal access for counter-recruiters on campuses throughout the region. Working to counteract the billions spent by the Pentagon on recruiting in schools, counter-recruiters seek to provide alternative information to young people facing tough decisions about their future.

To date, we have established equal access at North Medford, Crater and Ashland High Schools in Jackson county and Hidden Valley High School in Josephine county. Parents for Peace, based in Williams, are set to begin tabling at Hidden Valley this winter. Counter-recruiting brochures and posters are on display in counseling offices at Crater and North Medford. We are still seeking access at the remaining schools in Jackson and Josephine counties.

One of our next steps will be to host a series of trainings at Peace House this winter and spring to build a pool of counter-recruiters for campus visits. These trainings will be open to everyone. Please contact Stu at Peace House if you are

interested in receiving this training.

Additionally, we are seeking to secure long-term stable funding for the continuation of this program. Military recruiting propaganda reaches nearly every corner of our society. Yet with only a fraction of the resources, we can ensure that different perspectives are heard and other voices reach young people in our schools.

With growing unease about the ongoing war in Iraq, military recruiters are stepping up efforts in low-income communities across the country. New incentives are being offered to recruits. Meanwhile a growing number of soldiers are refusing orders to fight. A burgeoning network of military families are speaking out against war. And the national network of counter-recruiting organizations is growing every day. The peace movement has a unique opportunity to align with these efforts and challenge the dominance of militarism in our society. Please join us in these efforts.

Stuart O'Neill
Peace House program assistant



Artwork by Becky Johnson

2005 Pastors for Peace Caravan's to Chiapas and Cuba

Pastors for Peace will be sending solidarity/humanitarian aid caravans to Chiapas, Mexico in March, and Cuba in July. Citizens in Chiapas and Cuba continue struggling against globalization, neo-liberalism, and the constant threat of military aggression. Participation is encouraged, and tax-deductible contributions will help greatly.

Chiapas, Mexico's richest state in natural resources yet one of her poorest for inhabitants, is home to the Zapatistas, who rose up on January 1, 1994, the day the North American Free Trade Agreement took effect. Rightly predicting NAFTA's disastrous results, the Zapatistas have created autonomous communities and continue struggling against global corporate power. The caravan will spend 10 days in Chiapas, visiting indigenous villages and non-governmental organizations.

On July's trip, participants will stand in solidarity with our Cuban friends, learn about Cuban civil society, and deliver over 100 tons of humanitarian aid.

Donations for Chiapas will aid the "Campaign for Corn," in which tons of

corn and beans purchased from Mexican wholesalers are delivered to peasants, thousands of whom are refugees, having been driven from their land by deadly paramilitary groups. For Cuba, donations will help the "West Coast Bus Project." Activists from the entire western U.S. are fund raising for five school buses to send to Cuba. They will be dedicated to the Cuban 5, who are unjustly imprisoned in this country for simply monitoring the right-wing terrorist groups operating out of Florida against Cuba (see www.freethefive.org)

Tax-deductible checks made out to Pastors for Peace can be mailed to: 402 West 145th St. New York, NY 10031. Please specify "Campaign for Corn" or "West Coast Bus Project" on the memo line, and thank you!

Pastors for Peace caravans are life-changing experiences. Please join, and have your life changed forever! They are at (212) 926-5757 or p4p@igc.org.

Brad Jones

Walker Fund Peace Garden Update

We started with thistle and noxious weeds growing in heavy clay soil. This past summer, we tilled the land and built a deer fence. To date, we have grown 550 pounds of organic vegetables for the Tuesday Community Meal. The produce is usually harvested only hours before the meal, providing optimal nutritional value to a health-compromised population. Our crops included: salad greens, cucumbers, pole and string beans, broccoli, eggplant, sweet peppers, tomatoes, garlic, onions, beets, corn, kale, Swiss chard, zucchini, winter squash, spinach and collard greens.

We provided hands-on garden workshops to eight classes of children from August through December. The students ranged in age from five years old to thirteen. Each workshop began with a discussion of poverty, self-reliance, the free community meal and ways to take action to alleviate hunger. From there we talked about caring for the earth, organic gardening and soil health. Hands-on activities included planting, weeding, harvesting, tasting the food, spreading soil amendments (horse manure) and monitoring plant growth. We identified plants and insects, classifying beneficials and pests.

We are proud of the impact the garden experience has had on the children. After visiting the garden and learning about Uncle Foods Diner, local classrooms performed the following services for the homeless community: gathered hygiene articles, made peanut-butter and jelly sandwiches and bags of "trail mix," and cooked pumpkin pie for Thanksgiving Dinner. Some of the children also have classroom gardens and now donate surplus food to the community meal. It is really touching to see a five-year-old pick two cherry tomatoes, pop one in her mouth, and gently set the other in the donation cooler.

Our winter crops are growing beneath their row covers and we turn our attention to goals for the future. We hope to expand our services and strengthen our volunteer base. We would like to start a local food security network; a gathering where all concerned with local food, from the Food Bank, to local farmers and restaurant owners can brainstorm creative solution to community food issues.

We would like to expand our resources enough to provide nutritionally at-risk families who have space for a garden with



Artwork by Trace Bungay

"garden mentors." These mentors would be paired with families, assisting them in growing their own food, thereby enhancing their diets, empowering the parents, providing good modeling for the children, and making the family more self-sufficient. This model could also work for elders.

The garden has been a wonderful "bridge" into the other work of Peace House. Providing food for needy people is something everyone can embrace. During times of political instability and high passions, it is comforting to return to the simple, non-threatening and essential work of feeding people.

Shelley Elkovich & Leisa Glass
Peace Garden Coordinators

Don't miss the bus as the 16th Friendshipment Caravan to Cuba comes through the Rogue Valley!

The Caravan will be here shortly after the 4th of July. Several local people are strongly considering joining the Caravan. We will welcome them with a potluck and a program about their intriguing journey, exact date and location TBA. Photos and recollections of past Caravans will be included. For local info, call 482-8915 or 482-9625.

Traveling to Cuba with the Caravan will enable you to:
Break the blockade and challenge the immoral US foreign policies against Cuba.
Stand in solidarity with the people of Cuba.
Connect with thousands of activists throughout the US.
Learn about Cuba and what the US government doesn't want you to see in Cuba!
Deliver tons of humanitarian aid to Cuba where trade is restricted by the US.
Create a people to people foreign policy.

CARAVAN SCHEDULE

July 5-16	US/Canada routes begin
July 17-20	Orientation in McAllen, TX
July 21-22	Border crossing and travel to Tampico
July 23	Travel to Cuba
July 23-30	Program in Cuba
July 31	Travel back to Mexico
August 1	Reverse Challenge

For more information on the caravan or traveling with the caravan contact:
IFCO/Pastors for Peace ,402 W.145th St., New York, NY 10031
Ph: (212) 926-5757 Fax (212) 926-5842, Email: cucaravan@igc.org or www.pastorsforpeace.org

Southern Oregon Stands Together to Challenge the Bush “Mandate”

Over 300 people gathered in Medford on January 20 to mark the occasion of George W. Bush’s second inauguration. In a direct response to the “mandate” Bush claims to have won in November, progressives of all stripes marched together from Hawthorne Park through downtown Medford to the sounds of one lone bagpipe. Upon arriving at Vogel Plaza, the crowd fell into silence, joining Women in Black for a 30 minute vigil for peace. Speakers representing movements for peace, social justice, gay rights, immigrant rights, workers rights, veterans, election reform and the environment addressed the losses suffered under the Bush administration and spoke of hopes for a united progressive movement to reclaim this country.

Agnes Pilgrim, Takilma native elder, opened the cold foggy afternoon in Hawthorne Park with words of encouragement to all who speak out for peace, justice and the environment. Following a rainbow flag proclaiming “We the People Say NO to the Bush Agenda” and a black coffin carrying “Democracy”, 16 year-old Elias Alexander’s bagpipe led the procession towards Vogel Plaza.

When the marchers arrived at 12:00 noon, the downtown Plaza was transformed into a surreal sea of silence. The crowd swelled to nearly 400 people, all in complete silence, holding signs demanding “Bring the Troops Home Now!” and mourning the dead in Iraq.

At 12:30, a caricature of “King George” Bush emerged from the northeast corner of the Plaza, marching towards his throne at the opposite corner. In solidarity with with thousands at the inaugural parade in DC, the crowd turned their backs on Bush as he passed by.

Brenda Gould of Citizens for Peace & Justice opened the rally with passionate plea to end the war and occupation in Iraq and “plant daisies and trees in Baghdad, in Falluja, in Mosul and in Tikrit,” instead of bombs. Eric Strol of the Ashland High School Young Democrats spoke of his friends and peers who are being shipped overseas to fight and die in Iraq and Afghanistan. “When I see news of soldiers killed, they are always 18, 19 and 20 years-old... I don’t know if this effects all of you the same way it effects me,” said Strol.



Photo by Helga Motley

Jeffrey Foust urged all progressives to take up the cause of gay rights, reminding the crowd of the current push to create Constitutional amendments banning gay marriage and civil unions and the



Photo by Helga Motley

need for all people of conscience to stand up with those who are persecuted. Wes Brain, Dagoberto Morales and Kristy Alberty addressed the concerns of organized labor, immigrants and low-income communities in southern Oregon and across the country. Grady Boyd of Peace House read the “Pledge of Resistance” created by the anti-war group Not in Our Name in April 2002. “We believe that as people living in the United States it is our responsibility to resist



Photo by David Lorenz Winston

the injustices done by our government, in our names...Not in our name will you wage endless war...Not in our name will you invade countries, bomb civilians, kill more children, letting history take its course over the graves of the nameless...We pledge to make common cause with the people of the world to bring about justice, freedom and peace...Another world is possible and we



Photo by David Lorenz Winston

pledge to make it real,” proclaimed Boyd. After an interlude of songs courtesy of the Peace Choir, Rev. Paul Robinson concluded the rally, urging unity

among all progressives. “We are a people of hope and we are not going to give up our country,” said Robinson.

Numerous participants remarked that they hoped the day was a turning point for southern Oregon’s progressive movement. Recognizing the power in coming together, many pledged to continue building a unified movement to challenge the current direction of our country.

Reprinted from www.rogueimc.org

“I realized that public affairs were also my affairs. I became active in politics because I saw the possibility, if we all sat back and did nothing, of a world in which there would no longer be any stages for actors to act on.”
Helen Gahagan Douglas



Photo by Helga Motley



Photo by Helga Motley

“How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.”
Anne Frank

Conscientious, from page 1

Conscientious Objector (CO) status.

Those who have taken the time to document their beliefs have a much better chance of receiving a deferment as a CO. And this is where our CO Counseling Center comes in. Volunteers are waiting to set up appointments with young people who want help building a case file. For more information about the CO Counseling Center or to set up an appointment, call Peace House at 541-482-9625.

A second counselor training is in the works for those who want to become to counselors. We request that new comers research on line at www.objector.org and www.rcnv.org to become familiar with military draft resistance and to learn the steps and methods to create a CO case file.

Stuart O'Neill

Peace House program assistant



Photo by Helga Motley

Are you opposed to war? You could be a Conscientious Objector

Peace House now has a center available for young people, and parents of young people, to create a Conscientious Objecotr file.

Call Peace House at 482-9625 for an appointment.

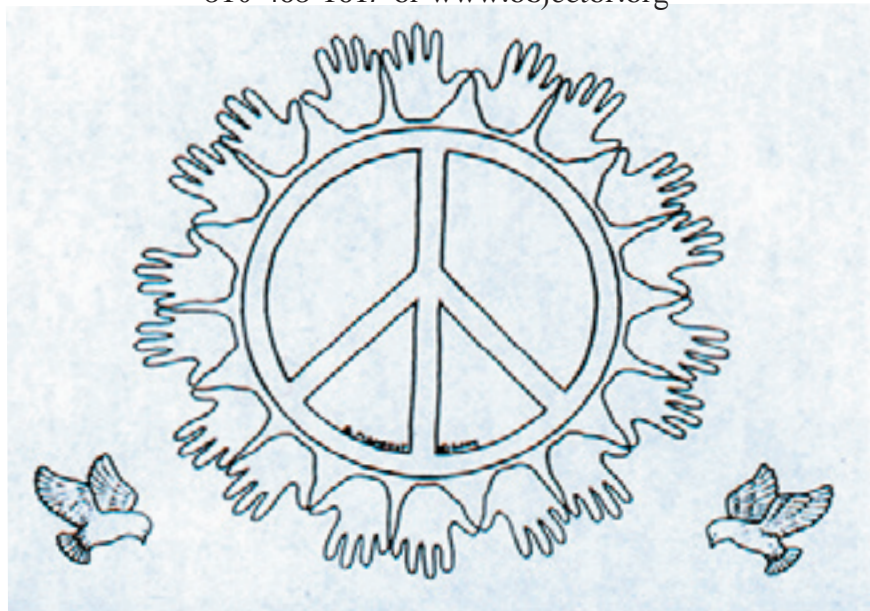
For further information on Conscientious Objection:

Center on Conscience and War

202-483-2220, or www.nisbco.org

Central Committee on Conscientious Objection (CCCO)

510-465-1617 or www.objector.org



“We cannot change the past, but we can change our attitude toward it. Uproot guilt and plant forgiveness. Tear out arrogance and seed humility. Exchange love for hate --- thereby, making the present comfortable and the future promising.”

Maya Angelou

Camilo Mejia Released From Prison A Message from Code Pink

We were delighted to receive a phone call yesterday, February 15, from Camilo Mejia, letting us know that he has just been released from prison! Some of you might remember Camilo, a courageous soldier who spent 8 months fighting in Iraq, came home for a 2-week furlough, and decided that he could not—in good conscience—return to Iraq. He applied for Conscientious Objector status, and was declared a Prisoner of Conscience by Amnesty International. But the US military convicted him of desertion, and sent him to serve a one-year prison sentence in Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

CodePink members have shown tremendous support for Camilo and his family. We attended his court-marshal trial, awarded him a Pink Badge of Courage, and many of you sent him financial aid and letters of support.

Camilo contributed a beautiful essay to our new book *Stop the Next War Now*. In it he says, “By putting my weapon down, I chose to reassert myself as a human being.” And he urges us to join him. “Let

us, collectively, free our minds, soften our hearts, comfort the wounded, put down our weapons, and reassert ourselves as human beings by putting an end to war.”

Camilo sends much thanks to CodePink, and said that after a much-anticipated reunion with family and friends, he would be joining us in traveling the country calling for an end to the war and occupation. We'll post his schedule on our site as soon as it's available.

In the meantime, let's celebrate his release, knowing that he has emerged from this ordeal more enlightened, determined and effective.

To read Camilo's essay *Regaining My Humanity* go to: www.codepinkalert.org/National_Actions_Camilo.shtml

In peace,

Andrea, Carol, Claire, Dana, Gael, Jodie, Medea, Nancy, Tiffany

www.codepinkalert.org

We Stand In Peace

It is 11:57 am on the Friday after Thanksgiving. I move to the grass next to six women dressed in black. I'm like them, wrapped in black. There is no acknowledgment; there is no sound. I take my silent place, fold my hands and suck in the crisp cold air. I close my eyes and isolate myself in quiet prayer for peace. I am profoundly aware of my duality – so alone in my witness for peace, a total detachment; just me - my deepest spiritual soul yearning for harmony in a dissonant world. Yet, there are women on either side of me, more streaming each minute onto the plaza lawn, some known, most unknown. We are in unspoken union; women committed in solidarity to a belief of ancient proportions. We are the mothers, the daughters, the wives, the grandmothers who cry for the end of war and mourn the torn shreds of humanity caught up in it.

One woman on my right hugs her child during our vigil. I sensed the pride in the child as she stood with her mom. She wanted to belong to this special throng of women; she too wanted to make her statement of belief. To her side sits a large black dog. He patiently waits, disturbing

no one ... he is symbolic of each of us.

We wait, we disturb no one. We just lift our hopes upward and outward.

Cars speed by – some slow down and the people inside hold up two fingers in support ... the universal sign for peace; others look and seem to ask what are these women doing?

The flash of a camera suddenly distracts my eyes. A young girl with her boyfriend stands across the street taking a photograph, of what she is not sure. Maybe some day she'll understand.

It is always surprising how fast the half hour of quiet vigil passes ... it feels as if it was just minutes before I lined up with women already in place. In silence we move out of our linear order. We reassemble in a circle, take one another's hands and call out a number and our name. This brings the unknown together with the known. We are no longer nameless. As each states their name they are met with a smile and a quiet acknowledgment that we stand together in community for peace.

Tia Hatch



KS Wild
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“This beautifully-made film captures the essence not only of the spotted owl controversy, but of natural resource conflicts everywhere.”

Josh Eagle, Lecturer on Law, Stanford Law School

The God Squad provides a rare behind-the-scenes look at the competing concerns and hidden politics underlying federal environmental policymaking. This documentary examines the Endangered Species Committee's controversial 1992 decision to allow federal timber sales in protected Northern Spotted Owl habitat. Although the proceedings ostensibly focused on the owl and a limited number of timber sales, the controversy was a microcosm of a much larger debate concerning the fate of the Pacific Northwest's ancient forest, the integrity of the Endangered Species Act and even the protection of biodiversity around the globe. Told in surprisingly candid interviews with high-level government officials, scientists-turned-whistleblowers and people in rural communities in Oregon, this film is a fascinating cautionary tale.

JOIN KS WILD ON MARCH 24 AT 7PM FOR TWO
INTRIGUING FILMS ABOUT THE OCEAN -
WHAT TO DO ABOUT WHALES? AND LEARNING TO SEA

For more information, contact KS Wild at 488-5789 or lesley@kswild.org

www.kswild.org

Dahr Jamail’s Iraq Dispatches Stories from Fallujah

These are the stories that will continue to emerge from the rubble of Fallujah for years. No, for generations. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the doctor sits with me in a hotel room in Amman, where he is now a refugee. He’d spoken about what he saw in Fallujah in the UK, and now is under threat by the US military if he returns to Iraq.

“I started speaking about what happened in Fallujah during both sieges in order to raise awareness, and the Americans raided my house three times,” he says, talking so fast I can barely keep up. “I entered Fallujah with a British medical and humanitarian convoy at the end of December, and stayed until the end of January,” he explains. When I ask him to explain what he saw when he first entered Fallujah in December he says it was like a tsunami struck the city.

“Fallujah is surrounded by refugee camps where people are living in tents and old cars,” he explains, “It reminded me of Palestinian refugees. I saw children coughing because of the cold, and there are no medicines. Most everyone left their houses with nothing, and no money, so how can they live depending only on humanitarian aid?”

The doctors says that in one refugee camp in the northern area of Fallujah there were 1,200 students living in seven tents. He briefly told me of a story he documented of a mother who was in her home during

siege they bombed it two times.”

The doctor tells me he and some other doctors are trying to sue the US military for the following incident, for which he has the testimonial evidence on tape.

It is a story I was told by several refugees in Baghdad as well...at the end of last November while the siege was still in progress. “During the second week of the siege they entered and announced that all the families have to leave their homes and meet at an intersection in the street while carrying a white flag. They gave them 72 hours to leave and after that they would be considered an enemy,” he says.

“We documented this story with video-a family of 12, including a relative and his oldest child who was 7 years old. They heard this instruction, so they left with all their food and money they could carry, and white flags. When they reached the intersection where the families were accumulating, they heard someone shouting ‘Now!’ in English, and shooting started everywhere.”

He stops here. His eyes look around the room as cars pass by outside on wet streets...water hissing under their tires. He left Fallujah at the end of January, so I ask him what it was like when he left recently. “Now maybe 25% of the people have returned, but there are still no doctors.



the siege. “On the fifth day of the siege her home was bombed, and the roof fell on her son, cutting his legs off,” he says while using his hands to make cutting motions on his legs, “For hours she couldn’t go outside because they announced that anyone going in the street would be shot. So all she could do was wrap his legs and watch him die before her eyes.”

He pauses for a few deep breaths, then continues, “All I can say is that Fallujah is like it was struck by a tsunami. There weren’t many families in there after the siege, but they had absolutely nothing. The suffering was beyond what you can imagine. When the Americans finally let us in people were fighting just for a blanket.”

“One of my colleagues, Dr. Saleh Al-sawi, he was speaking so angrily about them. He was in the main hospital when they raided it at the beginning of the siege. They entered the theater room when they were working on a patient...he was there because he’s an anesthesiologist. They entered with their boots on, beat the doctors and took them out, leaving the patient on the table to die.”

This story has already been reported in the Arab media. The doctor tells me of the bombing of the Hay Nazal clinic during the first week of the siege. “This contained all the foreign aid and medical instruments we had. All the US military commanders knew this, because we told them about it so they wouldn’t bomb it. But this was one of the clinics bombed, and in the first week of the

The hatred now of Fallujans against every American is incredible, and you cannot blame them. The humiliation at the checkpoints is only making people even angrier,” he tells me. The doctor tells me they are keeping people in the line for several hours at a time, in addition to the US military making propaganda films of the situation.

“And I’ve seen them use the media-and on January 2nd at the north checkpoint in the north part of Fallujah, they were giving people \$200 per family to return to Fallujah so they can film them in the line...when actually, at that time, nobody was returning to Fallujah,” he says. It reminds me of the story my colleague told me of what he saw in January. At that time a CNN crew was escorted in by the military to film street cleaners that were brought in as props, and soldiers handing out candy to children.

His story is like countless others. “My cousin was a poor man in Fallujah,” he explains, “In July of 2003, American soldiers entered his house and woke them all up. They drug them into the main room of the house, and executed my cousin in front of his family. Then they simply left.”

He pauses then holds up his hands and asks, “Now, how are these people going to feel about Americans?”

Dahr Jamail

<http://dahrijamailiraq.com>
(c)2004, 2005 Dahr Jamail.

ed. note – In December 2004, Peace House organized a benefit screening of “About Baghdad” and a one-day canvass, raising over \$1200 to support a humanitarian delegation for refugees in Fallujah. Over \$500,000 of medicine and humanitarian aid was delivered by this delegation to the Iraq/Jordan border.

Peace House Community Calender

Pastors for Peace Chiapas Caravan Potluck, Video Screening and Discussion Wednesday, March 2 at 6:30 pm

Peace House, 543 S. Mountain Avenue in Ashland

This spring, the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO)/ Pastors for Peace will organize another humanitarian aid caravan to Chiapas in support of communities and non-governmental organizations that are working for peace with justice and dignity. En route to delivering urgently needed material aid, the caravan will travel through cities throughout the US to raise awareness about the effects of US foreign policy and internal Mexican policy on the indigenous people of Mexico. For more information, call 482-8915 or 482-9625.

Women’s International League for Peace & Freedom Ashland meeting Friday, March 4 at 1:00 pm

Ashland Public Library Gresham Room

A video entitled “Independent Media in a Time of War” will be presented by Julie Norman. The film features Amy Goodman and the radio program “Democracy Now”. The Ashland branch of WILPF came into existence in October when a group of women who were interested in the organization got together through the Women in Black gatherings. Women of all ages are welcome to attend the meetings, held on the first Friday of each month at 1:00 pm. For further information, please call Nancy Spencer at 488-1561.

KS Wild Snowshoe Trip to Proposed Mt. Ashland Ski Expansion Saturday, March 12, 2005

Meet at Evo’s in Ashland at 10:00 am

Join KS Wild for a snowshoe trip to the proposed Mt. Ashland Ski Expansion. Dress warmly in layers, bring water and lunch, and snowshoes. For more info, contact Lesley Adams at 541-488-5789. Visit www.kswild.org for our spring hike schedule.

Global Day of Protest on the Two-Year Anniversary of the Iraq War

* End the War * Bring the Troops Home Now * Rebuild Our Communities *

Saturday, March 19, 2005

March 19-20 marks the two-year anniversary of the U.S. bombing and invasion of Iraq. After all of the death and destruction, and with the Bush administration claiming a mandate to continue their war, there’s a new urgency and a stronger determination within the global antiwar movement to bring the troops home now. Stay tuned to www.rogueimc.org for updates and information about local actions in Southern Oregon and Northern California.

What To Do About Whales and Learning to Sea

KS Wild’s Free Environmental Film Series

Thursday, March 24, 2005

7pm at the Headwaters Environmental Center on 4th and C streets in Ashland. Contact Lesley Adams at 488-5789

Planning Meeting for Peace House Annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Vigil

Monday, April 4 at 7:00 pm

Peace House, 543 S. Mountain Avenue, Ashland

Help create this years’ Peace House commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the US atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. For 18 years, Peace House has held a vigil from August 6 to the 9th on the plaza to honor the dead and to educate the public about nuclear issues to create a safer world. For more info, call 482-9625.

The Dance of Connection: Using Nonviolent Communication

Thursdays, April 7 - May 12 from 6:15 - 8:15 pm

Peace House, 543 S. Mountain Avenue, Ashland

Selene Aitken will lead this course to help individuals learn communication that works. To sign up or for more information, contact Selene at 482-7567. The course will be a benefit for Peace House, sliding scale \$50 - 500.

The God Squad and the Case of the Northern Spotted Owl

KS Wild’s Free Environmental Film Series

Thursday, April 21, 2005

7pm at the Headwaters Environmental Center on 4th and C streets in Ashland. Contact Lesley Adams at 488-5789

4th Annual Native American Ecological Education Symposium

Saturday and Sunday, April 23 – 24

Southern Oregon University

For the past three years, the symposium has been bridging the information gap between traditional native knowledge and western academia. This year we hope to bring in focus the cultural diversity of basket weaving, the Klamath Tribe and their struggles fighting for their land, and environmental education. The NAEES is free, but donations are greatly appreciated. For more information, please e-mail NAEES2005@hotmail.com.

Earth Day Celebration and All Species Parade at North Mountain Park

Saturday, April 23, 11am – 4pm

Celebrate Earth Day 2005 ~ Together for Tomorrow at North Mountain Park in Ashland. This free community festival will offer lively entertainment, children’s games and crafts, delicious food and dozens of exhibits teaching how to conserve energy, reduce waste, prevent pollution, protect wildlife and create an earth-friendly lifestyle. The All Species Parade starts at 1:30 in the Park soccer field. For information, call the North Mountain Park Nature Center at 488-6606.

Democracy Now Host Amy Goodman Comes to Ashland

Saturday, April 23

Location and time TBA, see page 1. For more information, call 488-7667.

War Resisters, from page 6

For more information about Pablo Paredes, go to www.swiftsmartveterans.com.

U.S. Citizen Jeremy Hinzman Fled to Canada Rather Than Be Sent to Kill in Iraq

Jeremy Hinzman enlisted in the Army in January of 2001. Like many young Americans without means, he was an easy target for savvy marketers employed by the Army. Enticed by a substantial college fund and the potential for a better life, he signed on the dotted line. He did not realize that, in the Army’s eyes, he was signing away his conscience. During his basic training, he found that very few soldiers were eager to kill other human beings, and he was appalled by the methods the Army used to instill trainees with a killer instinct. He applied to be classified as a Conscientious Objector and assigned to a non-combat job. But the Army “lost” his application and ordered him to ship out with the 82nd Airborne to Afghanistan. Before leaving, Jeremy once again filed a Conscientious Objector claim. Months later in Afghanistan, after a 25-minute hearing, the Army refused to classify Jeremy as a Conscientious Objector. Seeing no alternative, Jeremy resumed his regular military duties. After a 7 ½ month tour in Afghanistan, he was returned to his family in the U.S.

But when Jeremy was ordered to Iraq, he knew he would have to refuse. He could not in good conscience participate in a war he viewed as an occupation and virtual colonization process. On January 3, 2004, Jeremy Hinzman, his wife Nga, and their one year-old son Liam, came to Canada in search of a safe haven. Encouraged by his predecessors from the Vietnam-era, Jeremy sees Canada as a place that respects individuals’ rights to act according to their conscience, and particularly to refuse to participate in illegal and unjust wars.

“When I took my soldier’s oath, I swore to uphold the constitution and defend my country. I did not swear to take part in preemptive military actions and wars that do not meet just war criteria.”

Jeremy Hinzman refused to fight in an unjust war.

For more information about Jeremy Hinzman, go to www.jeremyhinzman.net.

Iraq War Veteran Refuses Second Deployment

This morning Sergeant Kevin Benderman, U.S. Army awoke to face what will probably be one of the most important decisions of his life: whether or not to accept or refuse re-deployment to Iraq to participate in a war that has been increasingly questioned by the American public, and the world. A war that has been ruled illegal by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and has come under increasing fire from both Republicans and Democrats alike who share the same concerns as Sergeant Benderman and the

U.N. Secretary General. While conscious of the fact that this single action could be the opening salvo of a war pitting an increasingly disgruntled military against the Bush administration over issues such as “stop-loss,” questionable operations, equipment failures and casualties in Iraq and the possibility of facing severe penalties under the Uniform Code of Military Justice for his actions, Benderman remains firm in his resolve to do something about it, and to do it now.

“I have both a professional and a moral obligation to call into question why we are still in Iraq after accomplishing the mission – in President Bush’s words – of deposing Saddam, and why U.S. military personnel are increasingly killing non-combatants. On my last deployment in Iraq elements of my unit were instructed by a Captain to fire on children throwing rocks at us.” This is not what he signed up for, Benderman said.

Both Benderman, 40, and his wife Monica realize the possible ramifications of his stand.

“We have no other choice,” Benderman’s wife said. “This is what we have to do, I have always told my children that the right thing is the most important thing, and doing it is the only thing that allows you to keep your integrity, regardless of the consequences.” Their actions are only reflecting their core beliefs she said.

For more information, visit www.tomjoad.org/warheros.htm

Web resources:
www.gifightback.org
www.objector.org
www.peace-out.com
www.nisbco.org

Help Wanted

Car Needed for Food Distribution

Reliable used car urgently needed for community volunteer organization serving the Rogue Valley. For nearly ten years Food for People (FFP) has collected food from local organic farmers and markets such as the Co-op, Market of Choice and Shop N Kart to distribute to hundreds of hungry people in this valley. Started and coordinated by Pamela Joy of Ashland, FFP has consistently donated food to Uncle Food’s Diner, HeadStart, the NW Seasonal Workers, the ICCA and a variety of other causes, as well as to individuals in need. In order to continue this work, she needs an inexpensive or donated reliable car as soon as possible. Please telephone her at 482-5330 with any suggestions. Thank you.

Democracy, from page 1

ing, the Society of Professional Journalists Award for Best Investigative Reporting, and the Radio-Television News Directors Award for a Regional News Series.

Amy’s American Book Tour

On April 23, Amy will delve into scandals described in her book that expose “oily politicians, war profiteers, and the media that love them.” Amy says, “Americans care, but it’s tough to care when you don’t know what’s going on. That ignorance is what war-makers count on and what the corporate media delivers.”

A one-hour benefit book-signing reception will precede Amy’s public lecture. [Individual and business underwriters are needed.] Other co-sponsors include the Media Collective at SOU, KSKQ-LP Community Radio, and Rogue Valley Independent Media Center. Tickets for the public lecture will be available after March 15 at Northwest Nature Shop in Ashland. Ticket prices are \$10 for general public, \$5 for students. Book- signing benefit reception details TBA. For more info, call 541-488-7667.

Julie Norman

Women in Black – Silent Vigils for Peace

Roseburg: 12:30 – 1:00 pm every Friday, Fire Station on Garden Valley

Grants Pass: 12:00 – 12:30 pm 1st & 3rd Mondays, Post Office downtown

Ashland: 12:00 – 12:30 pm every Friday & Saturday, near downtown Plaza on Main Street

Medford: 12:00 – 12:30 pm every Wednesday, Vogel Plaza

Cave Junction: 12:00 – 12:30 pm every Monday, County Building

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

Martin Luther King Jr.



Willow Wind students making Chinese calligraphy scrolls for the community meal. Photo by Shelley Elkovich

Uncle Food’s Diner Community Meal

Every Tuesday

Wesley Hall at the United Methodist Church, 175 N. Main St., Ashland
Dinner is served at 4:30 pm
Help Cook at 2:00 pm – Help Clean up at 5:30 pm

Sharing Food, Growing Stronger Together

For 13 years, Peace House has offered free weekly community meals in Ashland for homeless and low-income people. Each Tuesday, kids, elders and everyone in between gather to cook a nutritious meal for up to 100 people. The community meal serves as a hub for people to meet each other, organize, connect to services and receive referrals to community resource agencies.

Want Peace? Work for Justice!

Gandhi said, “Poverty is the worst form of violence.” Hunger and homelessness are issues we can address locally and are integral to the struggle for global peace. Uncle Food’s Diner is a wonderful opportunity for people to donate time, food, energy or finances towards a community led program that truly embraces sustainable grassroots efforts. For more info, call Peace House 482-9625

Yes!

I Support the work of Peace House

Here is my: ☐ Contribution ☐ Pledge for:

☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500

☐ Check enclosed \$ _____ Mail to P.O. Box 524, Ashland, OR 97520

☐ I will mail my pledge of \$ _____ by ____ / ____ / ____

☐ Bill my credit card: ☐ One-time payment ☐ Monthly

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____ Signature _____

☐ Yes, sign me up for Peace House eNews!

Helga Motley has gone digital

\$30 Portraits with CD

Studio or Outdoors

488-0155