

Clear Actions

Peace House

543 S. Mountain Ave., Ashland, OR 97520
(downstairs)

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Peace House • Affiliate of Fellowship of Reconciliation • P.O. Box 524, Ashland, OR 97520 • 541 482-9625 • Since 1982

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Amid our government's incessant clamor for war and the media's obsequious reporting thereof, one may find it nearly impossible to have any stirring of dissent validated by a talk show, a newspaper, or an elected official. After all, President Bush says, "You're either with



50,000-100,000 rally in San Francisco October 26

us, or you're with the terrorists." Is there any room for questioning our government's intent? Must we blindly support policies that will—if enacted with the force of our bombs—kill thousands in a war-torn, sanction-strangled country that has not attacked us? Using the President's logic, the answers to these questions are "no" on the former and "yes" on the latter. If these answers don't satisfy you, if you believe that an invasion of Iraq is a dangerous step, then you may be feeling alone, alienated by your disagreement. But you are not alone. In your home town, in your state, in your country and around the world, citizens are rallying against the Bush administration's plans to attack Iraq. They're saying NO to war and YES to peace.

see "... Not Alone," pg. 2

SONALI KOLHATKAR TO SPEAK OUT ON IRAQI WAR

Does it matter whether we spell it distraction or destruction? Sonali Kolhatkar will begin with the "a" form and finish with the "u" version when she speaks on "War on Iraq: a Weapon of Mass Distraction" in



Southern Oregon this month. She will make two appearances:

- **Cave Junction** — 7:30 p.m. on Friday, November 8th at the County Building, Redwood Highway at Lister Street. A peace vigil at 6 p.m. will precede the lecture.
- **Medford** — 7 p.m. on Saturday, November 9th at Litgate Hall, Medford Congregational Church, 1801 E. Jackson Street.

Co-sponsors include Oregon Action, ANSWER, The Siskiyou Project, Social Justice Alliance, World Peace Prayer Vigil, and Peace House. Free admission, donations welcome.

Sonali Kolhatkar and her husband, Jim Ingalls, are young, newlywed astrophysicists who are determined to make a difference. Separately and together, they are "citizens of the world" who "want to question and understand as critically as possible, the nature of power ... from global economics to gender politics. By analyzing power" they say, "we empower ourselves."

Their activism takes many forms, all intense, from the fair trade/anti-WTO movement, to the occupation of East Timor, a new trial for political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal, the bombing of Iraq and Yugoslavia, and more. Recently, they have become deeply involved with the Afghan Women's Mission

see "Sonali Kolhatkar...", pg. 2

from "... Not Alone," pg. 1

- On September 28, over 400,000 people rallied in London to protest an Iraq invasion, pressuring Prime Minister Tony Blair to quit being Bush's U. K. lap dog.
- One week later, 1.5 million protested in Italy, with over 200,000 converging on Rome alone.
- On October 6, 20,000 gathered in New York's Central Park. **That same day, 12,000 marched in Portland, Oregon, and rallies were held in 27 other U.S. cities.**
- On October 26, 150,000 marched on Washington, D.C. They surrounded the White House, and demanded that Bush refrain from his policies of death and destruction. In San Francisco, 50-100,000 marched. **And right here in Ashland, 500 took to the streets to stand against war.**



George Pearson

Sunday peace vigil at Lithia Plaza, Ashland

Since September, there have been hundreds of demonstrations against the proposed attack on Iraq. Not just in cities, but in small towns in every state. You are not alone. In southern Oregon, the peace movement is rising up:

- On Saturday, October 26, 70 people attended a Peace Forum in Klamath Falls. Intense discussion led to multiple ideas on how to increase the visibility of the peace movement in Klamath Falls. For more information, contact Ed Silling at sillinge@oit.edu.
- Every Sunday at 4:30 p.m., 30-50 Ashland citizens hold a vigil on Lithia Plaza.
- Peace House holds action-planning meetings every week. Contact Peace House at (541) 482-9625 for dates and times.
- In Grants Pass, a newly-formed Peace House group holds meetings every Wednesday from 5:30 p.m. to

from "Sonali Kolhatkar ...," pg. 1

and the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA).

Sonali is an Indian citizen from Maharashtra, but was born and raised in the United Arab Emirates. At 16 she left for college in Austin, Texas, where she spent five years pursuing her twin passions, physics and astronomy. She earned her Masters in Astronomy at the University of Hawaii, and began her career in science as an Associate Computing Analyst at the California Institute of Technology Space Infra Red Telescope Facility Science Center.

She recently left CalTech to host and co-produce the early morning drive-time show for Pacifica Network's KPFK Radio in Los Angeles. Her consuming volunteer "night job" is Vice President of the Afghan Women's Mission. The group works in solidarity with Afghan women to help improve health and educational facilities for Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The Afghan Women's Mission recently helped open a free hospital in Pakistan for Afghan women and children refugees.

Sonali has spoken out about women's rights and human rights in Afghanistan as well as about the responsibility of the US to the people of Afghanistan. Her essay, "By Any Standards, This is a War Against Afghans," was published as part of the series "September 11th: Feminist Perspective," and online at www.zmag.org and www.commondreams.org. Her latest article, "The Impact of US Intervention on Afghan Women's Rights," appears in the Summer issue of the Berkeley Women's Law Journal.

Sonali and Jim maintain a delightfully personal and informative website at www.sonaliandjim.net. For more information, search Google for Sonali Kolhatkar.

— Nancy Golden

7:30 p.m. at the Newman United Methodist Church, 132 NE B Street. For more information, contact Renee Cote at (541) 955-4636 or rcote@terragon.com.

- In Roseburg, one high school student started a vigil that eventually compelled two-hundred fellow citizens to join him. Never underestimate the power of one.

Remember, you are not alone. Make your voice heard and join us.

— Adrian Dorris



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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Fall is always such a busy time, and this year much more so. Peace House in September and October has been busy! With David Barsamian speaking in Ashland, Klamath Falls, and Grants Pass, his visit spurred the formation of satellite Peace House groups in both Klamath Falls and Grants Pass. We have participated in the Multi-Cultural Fair, the SOU Welcome Back Bash, and the 20th Anniversary Peace House Pasta Dinner. Thanks to all of the wonderful people that made all of the above possible. And special thanks to Daniel Wise for his contribution in putting our crashed computer system back together. And to Paul Collins for fixing everything else ... several times!

There's been a paradigm shift in this country. This *Clear Actions* is about not being alone, about the power of one. Writing the day after the A.N.S.W.E.R. rally in San Francisco, and the 500-strong (!) rally in Ashland ... and ... and ... I'm overwhelmed with the possibilities of Peace House and all activists around the country and the world!

We on the newsletter committee talked about having a forum regarding where we are today, where we envision going, and what are the impediments to making and having sustainable peace.

Honor. Let's begin with honor. We in the United States have failed in too many areas too many times to demand and to expect honor. In our homes, businesses, schools, media. Locally, nationally, internationally.

According to Webster's, honor is "being true to what is upright, honest, sincere."

When I was a child on a farm in Bend, my grandparents behaved as they expected me to behave. They treated our animals and the land with honor and respect. They would never have stolen or cheated for gain, nor supported someone who did. Every day we have the opportunity to choose our path. Can we remember the things we were taught in the "old days" and begin to live them and to teach them again? Is it too late? I don't think so.

The young people working with Peace House know about honor and yearn for it. The country is on the move for it. Let us begin today.

—Justine Cooper

AFGHANISTAN IN ASHLAND? LOCAL ARTIST TO CREATE ANTI-WAR ART INSTALLATION

Image and reality. An Afghan mother and her three young children are digging a hole in the frozen earth large enough for them to fit inside. They cover it with boards, scrap metal, branches and blankets. A country with a thousand times their wealth is dropping bombs along the ridge across the valley. They hide inside their "shelter." Waiting. The noise is ear-shattering. Fire and shrapnel move fast enough to pierce concrete. They have little chance of surviving even a near hit, but there was nothing else they could do.

Image and reality. We all watched in horror at the image of the devastating collapse of the Twin Towers on TV. In the end, the most important thing we learned as a people was that there was a deep compassion in us all. We spoke with family, with friends, with neighbors and strangers in a new and softer way because we knew they were feeling the same things we were feeling: empathy, compassion and sorrow. We hear from a friend that a friend of a relative died and we feel sorrow. We hear from a relative that a friend "got out" and we feel a pang of elation and wonder what that person was feeling as he or she ran down the streets of New York City through the blinding smoke and falling debris.

All of us ascended spiritually at that time. The seed of compassion is in us all and can be expanded to include stricken people everywhere in the world. And with this seed we can change the world. We can know and feel how we are connected with others now more than ever. We have seen that we human beings are altruistic by nature. We will help others when we understand their situation. Margaret Mead reminds us to "never underestimate the ability of a few concerned citizens to change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

My vision and desire as an artist is to enable people to make the connection between heart and mind. Sometime during the last two weeks in November, with help from you, I will create an Installation Art Piece at Ashland ArtWorks on Oak Street across from the old Cantwell's. We will dig a

see "... Anti-War Art...", pg. 4

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Oregon Peaceworks' Great Getaway Raffle Returns

Once again, it's time for Oregon Peaceworks' Great Getaway Raffle—your chance to win a fantastic prize while supporting Peace House and Oregon PeaceWorks. Proceeds from ticket sales will be divided evenly between the two organizations and there are five opportunities to win. Prizes consist of wonderful vacation packages to Bandon, Breitenbush Hot Springs, Ashland, Lincoln City and Yachats. Each package includes a cornucopia of vouchers for free lodging, meals, massages and other services and gifts.

It's easy to reserve your chance to get away from it all. Simply fill out the tickets inserted in this issue of *Clear Actions* and mail them in. If you wish to purchase more than one sheet of tickets, feel free to make more copies. You may pay by check or credit card. The drawing will be held in Salem in early December.

Being a peace activist shouldn't be all work and no play. Take this opportunity to grab a "peace" of the good life. Enter the Great Getaway Raffle today.

—Michael Carrigan

FREE LORI BERENSON

November 13th is Lori Berenson's 33rd Birthday and on November 30th it will be seven years since Lori was imprisoned by a secret military tribunal in Peru.

Lori was convicted under the now-disgraced Fujimori-Montesinos regime which has been internationally condemned as a violator of fundamental human rights, and the Peruvian government and military court has admitted that Lori was falsely convicted and nullified her life sentence, still she is held behind bars serving a 20 year prison term.

Lori Berenson could be any one of us, wrongfully convicted, anywhere, at any time. Rhoda Berenson's book, *My Daughter, Wrongfully Imprisoned in Peru*, is available at Peace House, along with a video documentary. Contact Peace House or visit www.freelori.org for more info.

May Lori's example of courage and commitment guide us and inspire us to continue to work for peace and justice for all.

—Jonnie Dale Lieberman

from "... Anti War Art...", pg. 3

hole large enough for a family. We will use whatever we can find lying around to cover the hole to protect us from the bombs. We must decide what provisions will be needed: blankets, of course, a small stove, a lantern, food and water. During the next six weeks anyone wishing to visit the site will be free to sit inside, perhaps to experience a little of the confinement and fear of an Afghan woman and her children. You may want to add to the provisions or repair weak areas in the roof.

Beginning with a poster depicting The Hole project there will be an ongoing "activist art" series of posters related to peace and humanity. I want this to be a collaborative effort. The art will be generated through the dynamic that creates community. Community is the medium. Community is the message. Each poster will be eye-catching and positive, not depressing. Each one will also include an idea of one thing you can do in five minutes to create peace without radically changing your life. We do what we can do. We can change the world one heart at a time. Watch your newspapers for more information regarding these projects.

—Cynthia Bronson



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REMEMBERING PAUL WELLSTONE

On October 25th, Senator Paul Wellstone, along with his wife Sheila and daughter Marcia, perished in a plane crash in northern Minnesota. Paul Wellstone was one of a kind. He was a man of principle and conviction, in a world that has too little of either. He was dedicated to helping the little guy, in a business dominated by the big guys. He will be remembered as he lived every day: as a champion for people. Mourn ... then organize! Senator Wellstone would want it that way.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The last month has been a busy one for progressive movements and causes around the world.

October 11th - Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter wins the Nobel Peace Prize. Gunnar Berge, chairman of the committee who selected Carter, said giving the prize to Carter "can and must also be seen as criticism of the line the current U.S. administration has taken on Iraq."

October 11th - Canada is poised to join Chile, Brazil, and others in opposing Chapter 11 investor-state lawsuits within the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA). Chapter 11 allows a foreign corporation to sue other countries in which it believes that state, local, or federal environmental regulations and other safeguards have lessened their profits.

October 16th - Bush signs into law his Gulf of Tonkin-like resolution, in essence giving him the ability to launch a preemptive strike on Iraq and a blank check to pay the bill. While the clamor for war is loud at home, support from the international community is tepid: Italy and England are the only two countries to back Bush's war on Iraq resolution.

October 24th - 200,000 El Salvadorans (4% of the total population) march against privatization of health care.

October 25th - Activist and progressive Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota dies in a tragic plane crash.

October 26th - Protesters around the world march against the war in Iraq. The protests in Minneapolis—8,000 strong—take on a somber tone as marchers remember Senator Wellstone's life, and honor his memory with signs and prayers. An estimated 300,000 march in the United States, the majority converging on San Francisco and Washington D.C.

October 27th - The Workers Party candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva wins Brazil's Presidential election in a run-off. He is a significant swing to the left from Jose Serra, the country's previous Social Democratic President. This is a huge step forward for one of the largest countries in the world. Da Silva started his work life shining shoes in a Sao Paulo slum and worked his way up to union boss. He has a better insight into the trails of the working class than previous administrations and may be able to use that insight to turn around one of the poorest economies in the world.

— Keith Quick

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"CLEAR ACTIONS"

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Calendar of Events

Nov. 8 & 9: Sonali Kolhatkar—astrophysicist, radio host, peace activist, painter, and songwriter—will be speaking in Cave Junction on November 8 at 7:30 p.m., and in Medford on November 9 at 7 p.m.. Cave Junction location: County Building, Redwood Highway at Lister St. Medford Location: Litgate Hall, Medford Congregational Church, 1801 E. Jackson St.

Nov 9, 11-1 p.m.: Monty Walters will give a briefing on non-violent actions around the world. Location: Peace House.

Nov. 14, 7 p.m.: Women for Peace Concert, featuring Jenny Bird, Queksta, and Joanie McGowan. Location: Congregational Church, 717 Siskiyou Blvd. in Ashland. Suggested donation: \$10, sliding scale.

Dec. 7, 1-4 p.m.: Children for Peace Concert, organized and choreographed by Michael Mish. Location: Ashland Community Center, 59 Winburn Way. Contact Peace House for more information.

On-Going:

Peace House Action Planning Meetings: every Thursday, 6-8 p.m. Location: Peace House, 543 S. Mountain Ave., across from SOU.

Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.: Grants Pass action meeting, Newman Methodist Church, 6th & B streets.

Just Alternatives to War discussion group: every other Wednesday, 7 p.m. at Peace House. Next meeting: November 13.

Peace Vigil on Lithia Plaza: every Sunday, 4:30 p.m. Bring your signs and your enthusiasm to show Ashland that you're standing for peace.

Wide Awake Film Forum: 1st and 3rd Saturdays, Evo's Java House. Call 482-2261 for more more information.

'Soup and Salon' at Pilaf's Restaurant: every Sunday, 5:30-7 p.m. Discuss relevant topics of the day over a delicious bowl of soup. 18 Calle Guanajuato, Ashland. Cost: \$7.

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