

First Amendment Victory in NM

School District Settles Lawsuit with Albuquerque Teacher Bill Nevins

Ashland resident Eric Sirotkin announced earlier in August that the Federal First Amendment law suit he filed in September, 2003 on behalf of teacher Bill Nevins against the Rio Rancho (NM) School District has been settled. The settlement included a payment of \$205,000.00 to Nevins and his attorney. The case was an historic first amendment case that received nation-wide attention when he was suspended and fired at the start of the Iraq war.

The facts established during discovery in this case were that Bill Nevins, an Albuquerque poet, journalist, teacher, and teachers union (NEA-AFT) member, had created "a marketplace of ideas" in his Rio Rancho (NM) High School humanities classes and through the multicultural Write Club and Poetry Team which he organized and coached at the school administration's request in 2002-2003. Students, many of whom were "at-risk" challenged students and from cultural minorities, wrote and performed their original poems at school and in community poetry readings, with Nevins's encouragement. The students and Nevins were widely praised. Then, in late February, 2003, on the eve of the start of the Iraq War, one of Nevins's team members read over the school's televised public address system an original poem, "Revolution X", which contained criticism of US government spending priorities concerning education and war. The high school's Military Liaison complained to the principal and demanded action, indicating in writing that whoever authorized the reading of the poem should be "horsewhipped".

The student's poem was investigated by the RRHS administration and members of the poetry team were called in and questioned. A campus censorship policy was put in place that banned the reading of poetry over the address system and required teachers to screen both students and visiting authors for "controversial" views. Bill Nevins openly questioned that policy and encouraged his students to continue to read their poetry pub-

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Ellsberg/Benjamin/Solomon Northwest Speaking Tour



Pentagon Papers whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg, Global Exchange activist Medea Benjamin and nationally syndicated columnist Norman Solomon will visit eight cities in Oregon and Washington this Fall, addressing the topic of what's at stake in the November presidential election and beyond.

The purpose of the nonpartisan tour is not only to get people more informed and motivated to vote in November. The three speakers also intend to begin discussion and debate on vital issues affecting citizens from all walks of life. Their goal will be to activate and empower people to stay involved in working at the grassroots level on these issues

and for a more democratic America no matter who is elected. They're all authors speaking as individuals whose travel is financed by no party, political action committee or candidate. This tour will hopefully increase understanding of major public policy issues and encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government. Therefore, non-profit sponsors may participate in these activities considered by law to be "legislative" or "educational," without jeopardizing 501c3 status.

The tour begins in the Ashland/Medford area on Monday Sept. 24 at 7:30 pm at the Unitarian Center, 87 Fourth Street. Tickets are \$3, children under 12 are free. For ticket outlets visit www.peacehouse.net. The tour will continue through Eugene, Salem, Corvallis, and Portland. In Washington, they will visit Olympia, Tacoma and Seattle.

Medea Benjamin is Founding Director of Global Exchange. For over twenty years,

Medea has supported human rights and social justice struggles around the world. She is a leading activist in the peace movement and helped bring together the groups forming the coalition, United for Peace and Justice.

Medea is also the co-founder of Code Pink: Women for Peace, a women's group that has been organizing against the occupation of Iraq and pushing for a re-orientation of budget priorities in the U.S. to focus on health care, education and housing, not war.

Medea was the Green Party candidate for U.S. Senate from California in 2000. Her run for U.S. Senate succeeded in mobilizing thousands of Californians around platform issues such as living wage, schools-not-prisons, and universal healthcare. She is a key figure in the anti-sweatshop movement, having spearheaded campaigns against the giant sports shoe company Nike and clothing companies such as the GAP.

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Peace Cranes on the Plaza For Nuclear Days of Action

Peace House's 18th Annual Hiroshima/ Nagasaki vigil, August 6 to 9, was a powerful commemoration of lives lost to nuclearism, the suicidal pursuit of nuclear superiority despite the cost. This year's vigil was created with wonderful help from Mary Lou Lucas, Nancy Spencer, Mary Ann Jones and Barbara Jarvis. Irene Saikevych prepared most of the materials for the display. Jaelle Dragomir and Cathy Eaglston helped with petitions and copying. A few days before the vigil, Bill and Melody Ashworth found the news clipping of their very first southern Oregon vigil in 1975 as they stood silent with other Friends, including Bea Newby and Marjorie Kellogg, outside the Federal Building in Medford for an hour on August 6.

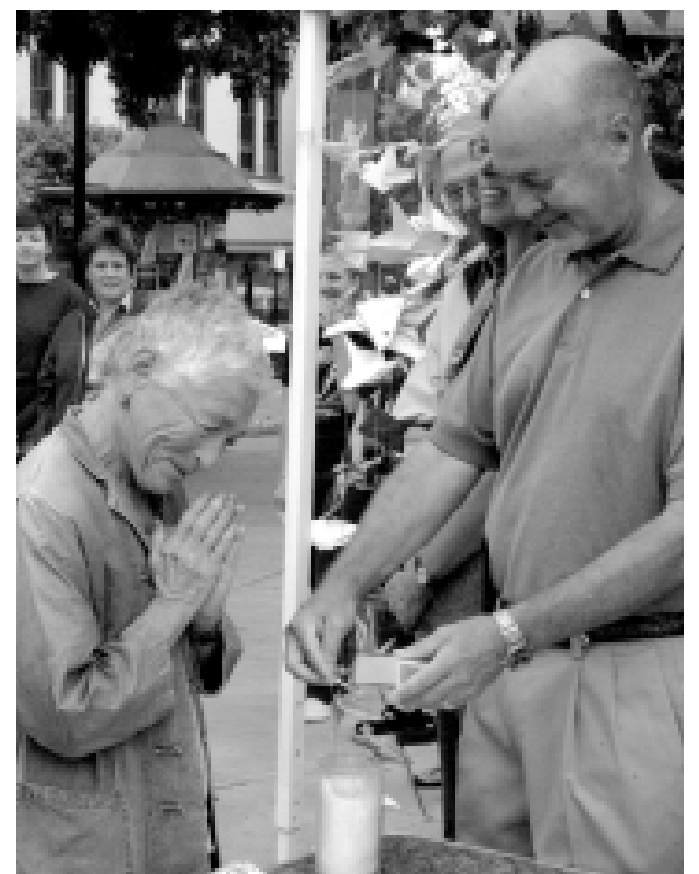
Phil Gagnon used calligraphy to make an eye catching rendition of Goering's quote, "Why of course, people don't want war. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked and then denounce the

pacifists for lack of patriotism and for exposing the country to danger," which stopped passersby.

Dee Leitner gracefully decorated the booth with origami peace cranes early on August 6 for Hiroshima Day. Almost 50 people gathered on the plaza for the opening ceremony. Robert Greygrass, local actor and wellness educator, sang and drummed a blessing in Lakota. Mayor Alan DeBoer read the Ashland Hiroshima Day declaration, inviting Dot Fisher Smith, anti-nuclear activist and founding mother of Peace House, to light the Hiroshima flame with him. Beth Baker brought many to tears with her acappella "Amazing Grace". Grady Boyd, co-director of Peace House told the story of Sadako and the thousand cranes. Dot and John Fisher Smith led a chant to create a positive future.

Friday evening on the plaza, the vigil was treated to traditional drumming by the Native American

See *Peace Cranes*, page 6



Mayor Alan DeBoer and peace activist Dot Fisher-Smith light the peace flame. Photo by Helga Motley

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From the Staff of Peace House

Open Letter of Gratitude

Thank you thank you for the prompt response to our fundraising letter! Peace House is overjoyed to have the financial help in these intense times.

Heartfelt thanks to Betty LaDuke for her beautiful giclee piece "Jump Rope" for our raffle and our friend Merlin Mc Daniels for sharing his experience and expertise at our first Conscientious Objector meeting. Merlin, your moving words and sound advice were most helpful.

Hooray for Shri Estes, Peace House board member, for the terrific interview she authored, "Returning from War; A Family Affair" in the latest issue of the Sentient Times. The interview with Peace House Co-director Linda Richards and her mom, Jill, brought a much needed voice to the long term effects of serving in war for service people and their families. We hope we can help facilitate as healthy a return home as we can for those serving in Iraq.

Many thanks to Alisa Stucky and to Mary Lou Lucus for their HUGANTIC donations toward our copy machine. We're \$150 closer to our goal of breaking out of the technological stone age. Please continue to send your tax deductible donations to Peace House to help our tech-savvy efforts.

Anita Rodgers, Program Director of the McKenzie River Gathering Foundation, schooled many social justice groups in the ABC's and 123's of grantwriting. We received practical tips and answers to our many questions. Thanks Anita and MRG!

A big round of appreciation goes to Leisa Glass and Shelley Elkovich for their wonderful work in the Walker Peace Garden at Willow Wind. It looks beautiful and the vegetables make our Uncle Food's meals even more delicious. Please go visit the garden and see for yourselves!

Thanks to Pamela and Joseph and the Food Angels: Matt, Andrea, Travis, Sean, Scotty, Joe, Regina, Jill, Alyssa etc. for all the hard work you put into collecting, slicing, dicing, cooking and serving food to our community each Tuesday at Uncle Food's. Big, soapy thanks to all the folks who come early to cook and/or stay late and make sure everything gets cleaned up!

Campaign Against the Militarization of Youth Grows in Southern Oregon

- Counter Recruitment • Resist the Draft
- CO Counseling

Our efforts to educate and take action against the ongoing militarization of youth in our communities are growing and expanding! Peace House continues to coordinate a regional counter recruiting program that is focused on highlighting alternatives to military service and exposing the myths recruiters use to coerce students to enlist. Volunteers are busy connecting with school counselors and administrators to gain access for counter recruiters and brochures in schools throughout the region. We will be organizing a training for counter recruiters this fall and we'll need lots of help to make this program a success in reaching those most at risk for targeted recruitment in our schools. The next gen-

eral interest meeting for counter recruiting will be on September 13 at 6:00 pm at Peace House.

Peace House is supporting a group of parents and students organizing to Resist the Draft. This group is focusing on education and action to oppose the re-introduction of mandatory military service. Speculation has circulated on the internet and in the media about the draft. Two bills remain in committee in both the House and Senate that would re-introduce a draft. While it is impossible to be certain of the likelihood of these bills becoming law, it is worthwhile to begin to organize now! Look for an October meeting.

Out of these concerns about the possibility of a new military draft, Peace House, in collaboration with the South Mountain Friends Meeting and the Resist the Draft group, has initiated steps to open a Conscientious Objector (CO) counseling center at our office on Mountain Avenue in Ashland. Working with experienced CO counselors, students and parents, Peace House is busy laying the foundation to offer support and assistance to youth building the CO case files. This working group will meet on September 15 at 6:00 pm at Peace House.

Anyone interested in getting involved in these efforts, please get in touch with Grady or Stu at Peace House. To sign up for the counter recruiting listserve, log on to <http://lists.riseup.net/www/subrequest/youth-peace> and enter your email address. To sign up for the resist the draft and CO counseling listserve, log on to <http://lists.riseup.net/www/subrequest/resistthedraft> and enter your email address.

Co-Director of Peace House Needs Anti-Nuclear Conference Sponsors!

Dear Supporters,

I am registered to attend the Nuclear Policy Research Institute (NPRI) conference in Chicago! NPRI is an international anti-nuclear organization founded by Dr. Helen Caldicott. I am so excited to meet national and international leaders in the anti-nuclear movement, and learn from them. Attending this conference will be a benefit to Peace House in many ways including education and connections to nuclear issues on an international level. After I return, I will do a presentation on the issues and share what I learn.

However, our funds at Peace House are depleting rapidly and this activity is not in the budget. The conference itself is only \$40, and due to a generous friend, my housing has also been donated. Plane fare to Chicago is only \$200, and I have a commitment from generous donors (thank you so much, the Wesslers and the Pattons!) for \$100 of my ticket. If I can raise \$140 more my trip will be paid for! If you can help, please send a donation earmarked with the words NPRI on the check, before Oct 1. If I raise more than the \$140 I need, I can put it toward attending the \$100 fundraising dinner for the Nuclear Policy Research Institute.

Thank you so much,

Linda Richards

To Learn more, visit www.npri.org



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Speaking Tour from page 1

While critical of unfair global trade policies, Medea has promoted “fair trade” alternatives that are beneficial to both producer and consumer. She helped form a national network of retailers and wholesalers in support of fair trade and was instrumental in pressuring coffee retailers such as Starbucks to start carrying fair trade coffee.

She is author of eight books, including “Bridging the Global Gap, The Peace Corps and More,” and the award-winning book “Don’t Be Afraid, Gringo: A Honduran Woman Speaks from the Heart.” She helped produce various TV documentaries such as the anti-sweatshop “Sweating for a T-Shirt.”

Daniel Ellsberg was a Junior Fellow in the Society of Fellows, Harvard University. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics at Harvard in 1962 with his thesis, on Risk, Ambiguity and Decision. In 1959, he became a strategic analyst at the RAND Corporation, and consultant to the Department of Defense and the White House, specializing in problems of the command and control of nuclear weapons, war plans, and crisis decision-making.

He joined the Defense Department in 1964 and transferred to the State Department in 1965 to serve two years at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, evaluating “pacification” on the front lines.

On return to the RAND Corporation in 1967, he worked on the Top Secret McNamara study of U.S. Decision-making in Vietnam, 1945-68, which later came to be known as the Pentagon Papers. In 1969, he photocopied the 7,000-page study and gave it to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; in 1971 he gave it to the New York Times, Washington Post and 17 other newspapers. His trial, on twelve felony counts posing a possible sentence of 115 years, was dismissed

in 1973 on grounds of governmental misconduct against him, which led to the convictions of several White House aides and figured in the impeachment proceedings against President Nixon.

Since the end of the Vietnam war, Ellsberg has been a lecturer and activist on nuclear and defense issues.

Norman Solomon’s syndicated column, “Media Beat,” won the 1999 George Orwell Award for Distinguished Contribution to Honesty and Clarity in Public Language. The award, presented by the National Council of Teachers of English, honored Solomon’s widely praised book “The Habits of Highly Deceptive Media.” In the introduction to that book, Jonathan Kozol wrote: “The tradition of Upton Sinclair, Lincoln Steffens, and I.F. Stone does not get much attention these days in the mainstream press ... but that tradition is alive and well in this collection of courageously irreverent columns on the media by Norman Solomon. ... He fights the good fight without fear of consequence. He courts no favors. He writes responsibly and is meticulous on details, but he does not choke on false civility.”

Solomon has appeared as a guest on hundreds of media outlets including the PBS “NewsHour With Jim Lehrer,” CNN’s “Crossfire” and “TalkBack Live,” MSNBC, Fox News Channel, C-SPAN’s “About Books” and “Washington Journal,” Voice of America, Al Jazeera, PRI’s “Marketplace” and NPR’s “All Things Considered” and “Talk of the Nation.”

Solomon’s has appeared in the Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Newsday, New York Times, Boston Globe, Miami Herald, and USA Today. His latest book was “*Target Iraq: What the News Media Didn’t Tell You.*”

David Zupan

The Patriotism of Dissent

Citizens for Peace and Justice (CP&J) invites you to join fellow progressives on September 4 and October 2 from 12:00 noon until 1pm in demonstrating against the policies of the Bush administration.

Beginning on June 5, we have demonstrated on the first Saturday of each month at the corner of Riverside and Barnett near Burger King in Medford. We encourage all who are outraged with what has happened domestically and internationally to come and be heard. Please bring a sign or banner that articulates your concern, be it the occupation of Iraq, environmental policies, labor issues, women’s choice issues or other. For more information, please visit our site at www.medfordcpj.org and on the calendar scroll to “The Patriotism of Dissent”.

On August 6, the occasion of Dick Cheney’s visit to the Valley, CP&J coordinated a special demonstration in front of KOB-TV Channel 5. Some 25-30 demonstrators gathered, holding placards and flags. Damon Neal spoke about how Bush and Cheney are representing corporate interests but not the interests of the American people. Wes Brain made a speech blasting the Administration and telling how labor unions have been struggling to uphold their members’ rights in a decidedly anti-union environment. CP&J members sat at a lemonade stand offering lemonade for \$40 a cup for civilians and \$80 a cup for military, courtesy of Halliburton. KOB featured our demonstration that evening on the local news.



PH Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Raffle

Thursday, September 30 at 6 pm

This year’s fun-filled event will be held on September 30 at the Presbyterian Church on the corner of Walker Avenue and Siskiyou Boulevard in Ashland. Join Peace House staff and board for a fun filled evening of great food and great prizes!

The evening will begin with music starting at 6:00 pm. Dinner will follow. Plates will be sold on a sliding scale from \$7-\$700. Yummy organic spaghetti, salad and bread will fill your belly with the goodness of the harvest season!

Raffle prizes include artwork “Jump Rope” by Betty LaDuke, gift certificates to local restaurants, and a night’s stay at Motel del Rogue in Grants Pass! Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$5 at Peace House.

All proceeds from the dinner and raffle will benefit Peace House and support our work as your resource center for nonviolence, education and action.

Project Vote Smart

With staff guidance, dedicated students and volunteers have been toiling for months on a lovely ranch in Montana preparing the 2004 Voter’s Self-Defense Manual for your use in learning the positions and voting records of elected officials at national, state and local levels.

As stated in a Tidings editorial (reprinted from The Oregonian) on August 17, far too many of the Oregon candidates “pretty much stiffed the surveyors — and we might add the voters.”

Only about 21% of the candidates for statewide office answered Vote Smart’s National Political Awareness test. Nationally 42% of the U. S. Senate and House candidates responded. Only in the Senate race between Sen. Ron Wyden and challenger Al King did both candidates take part.

Despite this dismal record of many Oregon candidates, there is valuable information in this handbook to guide you in your voting in November because the voting records of all are there to be scanned.

You can secure a copy of the handbook by calling 1-888-Vote-Smart (1-888/868-3762) or reading more about their work at www.vote-smart.org. And you can get your candidates’ record by phoning PVS. For national candidates there is biographical information, campaign finances, ratings from over 100 conservative to liberal special interest groups on the federal and state levels; issue positions, voting records, and public statements.

For a working vacation, PVS President Richard Kimball invites you to their Montana ranch research center for two weeks of volunteer work answering voter questions and engaging in additional research.

They also have a national internship program. You don’t have to be a member to participate but donations are most helpful. A general membership is \$40 and is tax deductible.

Marguerite Craig

Dr. Michael Parenti Speaks

Thursday, Oct 7, Ashland High School Theatre. Time to be announced.

Noted award-winning author Dr. Michael Parenti will talk about the problem of empire through history and the way it pertains to present-day US world policy. He will show how patriotic pride and patriotic fear have been manipulated in service to empire-building, at a great cost to our people and our nation. Parenti will also explore the idea of the nation’s “messianic mission,” and will offer a view of real patriotism, the love of country that has a social content other than militarism and is willing to challenge the imperial rulers.

More info on Parenti is available on his website: www.michaelparenti.org.

Theresa Lowrie

As part of his senior project, Ms. Lowrie’s son, Ian is bringing Dr. Michael Parenti to Ashland to speak. Ian is currently studying in England.

Trinity Day Event

I am become death, the destroyer of worlds.

- J. Robert Oppenheimer

July 17, 2004 was the anniversary of Trinity Day, the first atomic test. Despite Oppenheimer and many other scientist’s best efforts to prevent the use of their creation, it was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki less than a month later. This year, the newly founded coalition of environmental and anti-nuclear groups, Be Safe, coordinated events to commemorate the Trinity shot.

In Ashland, the 1986 Great Peace March Reunion, which walked across country for global nuclear disarmament 18 years ago, walked from the Wellsprings on Trinity Day and joined the Women in Black in their vigil on the Ashland Plaza. As Eric Sirotkin so aptly put it on World Peace Day, it is important to hold the space for a non-violent future with protest in the present against militarism. The group was silent and meditative for a half an hour, then circled up to sing together. For coverage on the local event, see www.dailytidings.com/2004/0717/index.shtml. For the Be Safe coalition, see www.besafenet.com

Hey! How Can A Progressive Stay Active Around Here?



War on Earth

Protecting Habitat for a Healthy Home

National Public Radio recently reported that a group of 19 scientists released a new climate change study that predicts hotter summers and water shortages in California during this century. As a California-born citizen, I know well that hotter temperatures and less water is a significant and scary prediction for California. While human-induced climate change is a gargantuan predicament that we face, it is not beyond our ability to make considerable progress in a positive direction.

The climate change story reminded me of a quote from Henry David Thoreau when he asked us, "What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?" It's a great question, but one that I think often surpasses people's daily concerns. House payments and rent are more tangible responsibilities compared to reducing our impact on climate change. However, the planet is our larger home and its health clearly deserves our acute attention. I suppose the question then becomes, beyond the upkeep of our own homes, what do we do to make the planet a tolerable place to live into the future?

I broaden the definition of "house" to include the habitat of all creatures that comprise the web of life that makes Earth unique. The fragile fabric of the planet is well implied in Einstein's famous saying that, "the most important part of intelligent tinkering is to save all the parts." I think a good start to a tolerable planet is to maintain the homes and habitat of all creatures big and small.

I was pleased to learn in a recent national poll that the overwhelming majority of Americans support the Endangered Species Act (ESA), which works to protect and restore species that are on the brink of extinction. The ESA may be one of the most important pieces of environmental legislation in U.S. history. Essential to the ESA is the protection of endangered species habitat. This is a crucial component to species recovery; we recognize that to protect and restore a species, the habitat on which that species relies must be protected.

In the face of attacks on habitat protections by the Bush administration, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco issued a ruling in early August that strengthens the ESA emphasis on habitat protection. The ESA requires designation of habitat critical to the recovery of a plant or animal that is listed as threatened or endangered. KS Wild and other environmental groups filed a lawsuit challenging six biological opinions issued by U.S. Fish and Wildlife allowing logging within critical habitat for the northern spotted owl on public lands in Oregon and Washington.

Federal agencies have been planning timber sales in critical habitat and issuing owl "take permits" for years. These permits allow agencies to proceed with timber sales even though there are documented spotted owls using the area. These "take permits" are essentially "kill permits," allowing the degra-

dation of critical habitat and the killing of spotted owls, both of which are antithetical to the intentions set forth in the ESA. The court ruled that the Endangered Species Act "was written not merely to forestall the extinction of species ... but to allow a species to recover to the point where it may be delisted."

This ruling could have significant implications for dozens of timber sales throughout the Pacific Northwest where federal agencies have proposed to degrade critical habitat for the spotted owl. The ruling also has implications for endangered species across the country by strengthening habitat requirements under the ESA at a time when the Bush administration is trying to decrease habitat protection requirements.

While we recognize that to protect and restore a species the habitat on which that species depends must be protected, we do not apply that logic to our own species. If we were to extrapolate the philosophy of the ESA - that habitat is essential to maintaining species - why do we not recognize that human habitat goes far beyond our individual neighborhoods?

If we did, protections against deforestation, global climate change and persistent pollutants, among others, would be higher priorities on the national and global scale.

While I enjoy the comforts of my home, I recognize that I depend more on the health of my larger home, the Earth, for the essential elements of life like food, water and air. A blanket philosophy of protecting habitat for all species will conserve the home in which we all live and keep the fabric of life intact for future generations of humans and non-humans alike. Either we fundamentally start protecting habitat, or we should invest in more air-conditioning and bottled water.

Lesley Adams

Lesley Adams is the Outreach Coordinator for the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center - www.kswild.org

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Constitutional Amendment 36

What it would mean for Oregon

If passed, Constitutional Amendment 36 will permanently alter the Oregon State Constitution to read; "It is the policy of Oregon, and its political subdivisions, that only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or legally recognized as a marriage." This ballot measure is the so called Defense of Marriage Act, (DOMA) which sadly has already passed in some states.

This amendment would ban same-sex marriages in the State of Oregon and create policy that Oregon does not recognize marriages performed legally in other states, unless that marriage is between a man and a woman. It is currently state policy to recognize all out-of-state marriages that are valid in the state where the marriage was performed, unless the marriage violates public policy in Oregon. Basically, Amendment 36 would create a strong policy against recognizing same-sex marriages.

Much of the support for Amendment 36 has come from churches. Many of the signatures to put this measure on the ballot were collected in the pews. Strange, since this amendment seems contrary to the Christian faith, in that it discourages a strong family bond. I am pleased to say that several Christian churches here in Ashland met recently to discuss a response to Amendment 36.

There is a strong grassroots campaign brewing throughout the state, "No on Constitutional Amendment 36." There is good information and places you can go to help at www.noon36.com.

As a woman in love with a woman, let me just add this; there is no hidden agenda behind the LGBT movement, it's about love and it's about respect for human intimacy.

Brandy MacDonald

Peace House Supports Free Speech!

This summer was busy for activists in our region...from protesting logging to exposing the treatment of people with disabilities to disrupting V.P. Cheney's speech, lots of people have been out there promoting non-violence!

See www.rogueimc.org to find out the latest news made for and by activists for change.



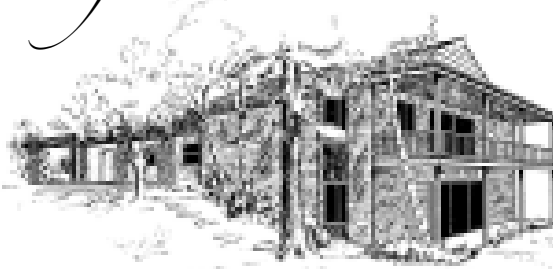
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Photo above & below provided by Brenda Gould



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Bring Down the Klamath Dams: Tribes Stage Protests for Wild Salmon

In a global economy—in which corporations can “own” a river thousands of miles away—there is a need for global resistance.

In California and Oregon, a complex of six dams on the Klamath River is owned by Scottish Power—the 14th largest corporation in the world. The dams prevent salmon passage, but Scottish Power claims that removing them or building fish ladders is not economical. They have begun the dam re-licensing process which occurs every 50 years.

July 17, fishers and members of the Hoopa,



Yurok, Karuk, Klamath and Modoc tribes from the 400-mile-long Klamath River took their case to Scottish Power headquarters. Their message, Bring down the dams, save the Klamath Salmon.

Over the course of a week and a half, the salmon advocates met with the Scottish Parliament, held a salmon bake at Scottish Power headquarters, won over the Scottish public, and brought their message to Scottish Power's board of directors. The advocates told how Scottish Power has ignored scientific recommendations for years on how to stop the dams from killing fish. These kills are destroying not just wild salmon but lamprey, sturgeon, local communities and a way of life.

Back in the US on July 17th, locals and environmentalists brought the fight to Klamath Falls, Oregon. The prospect of protesting an anti-Endangered Species Act (ESA) meeting was daunting. In 2001, Klamath Falls hosted a bucket brigade—in

which politicians and protesters took water from the Klamath River and monkey-wrenched open the flood gates to the Klamath Water Project to protest water-use restrictions. Soon after, the Bush administration “fixed” the problem with a 10-year plan. The next year, up to 60,000 wild salmon died before spawning, devastating fishing and recreation industries. The meeting in Klamath Falls was meant to weaken the ESA. Only one representative for five Klamath tribes was allowed to speak at the hearing.

As a response to the one-sided testimony, more than 150 tribal members and supporters marched through downtown to tribal drumming and songs before crashing an anti-fish rally, which included its own cavalry, giant bucket and logging truck. They urged lawmakers to consider the impacts of salmon extinction to downriver communities. Locals could not remember a time when Native people and environmentalists rallied together in Klamath Falls in such numbers.

There have been few times in history when so much attention has been focused on a western river. The Klamath wild salmon run does not have long to live if something doesn't change soon. Actions for the salmon and people of the Klamath will continue. Please join us in freeing the river.

Contact KSAN at (541) 951-0126; mailto:salmonaction@cascadiarising.org.

Regina Chichizola

photos by the Klamath Salmon Media Collective



Outside Fleet: First Person From the Democratic Convention

I came to Boston with no credentials allowing entry to Fleet Center, no chance of getting onto the convention floor. But there was a dorm room at Emmanuel College reserved by the Kucinich campaign, and a full roster of alternative events scheduled over the next seven days, beginning with the Boston Social Forum on Friday at UMass.

With more than 600 events, the Forum covered every progressive issue imaginable. Panel discussions and workshops took place over a three day period. Additionally, there were hundreds of tables to scour for leaflets, buttons, t-shirts, bumper stickers, even cases of Palestinian olive oil.

More progressive events were scheduled throughout the week. Sunday's main event was a rally at Boston Common and march to Fleet Center. Police were stationed along the route, an innocuous presence. But a large riot squad waited at Fleet Center behind barricades prohibiting public access. Soldiers (snipers) looked down on us from the high roof of the Center. This was my first look at the “free speech zone”—the double fencing, the overhead netting, the coils of razor wire.

On Monday, a forum on “Civil Liberties, Civil Rights and Justice” at St. Paul's Church was moderated by Zeenat Khan and featured a panel including Dr James Zogby, Medea Benjamin, Phyllis Bennis, Margaret Prescod, Mimi Kennedy, Dennis Kucinich and Rev Jesse Jackson. Raucous cheers, foot stomping and pew pounding interrupted the speakers throughout. Kucinich issued the challenge to continue to campaign against the Patriot Act and for a Department of Peace. Jesse Jackson reminded us that change always comes from the bottom up, never the top down.

Another forum was at the Paulist Center Tuesday on “Building the Peace Movement,” moderated by Mimi Kennedy. Speakers were Phyllis Bennis, Tom Hayden, Medea Benjamin, Steve Cobble and Rep. Kucinich, whose statement, “We are here to change the world!” met with a roaring standing ovation. Hayden cautioned that “fear is taking over

this country and the anti-war movement has to stand up to fear. The peace movement,” he stated, “has to be in the streets.” Another raucous ovation.

Other peace events included: a candle light vigil in Copley Square; the Eyes Wide Open exhibit of more than 900 empty combat boots arranged on Copley Plaza; a rally and street theatre on “Guantanamo and Abu Graib, What Have We Become?” and a protest rally against the dual occupation of Iraq and Palestine. Progressive Democrats of America held an alternative convention at Roxbury Community College on Thursday.

Highlighting the day of speeches, Tom Hayden detailed the history of progressive organizing within the Democratic Party. Reps Kucinich, Barbara Lee and John Conyers spoke, as did Howard Dean, Medea Benjamin, “Granny D” Haddock, Mimi Kennedy, James Zogby and Tom Andrews, promoting a new movement within the Democratic Party, inspired by the campaigns of Dean and Kucinich.

We headed for Canal Street and a final rally (outside the protest cage) where a large crowd had assembled. Amy Goodman of Democracy Now was speaking, beyond my earshot. I wandered to the next knot of people, coming face to face with a riot squad of

about 75 blocking the street. The crowd and cops stood looking at each other. Both seemed bewildered. I think the cops felt silly facing off against a bunch of pacifists, while the crowd wondered why this show of force was necessary. The riot squad soon quietly departed, replaced by a single line of police in everyday uniform. They soon left, allowing us to approach the arriving delegates with only a low metal bar between us. Now it was the delegates that were in a “cage” or, more precisely, a cattle chute, flanked by barricades on both sides. Most filed quickly by, blank faced, or smiled self-consciously. More than a few came over to shake our hands.

The demonstrators started to disperse as the flow of arriving delegates thinned. It was all but over for those of us outside Fleet Center.

We wouldn't see the balloons and confetti fall on the revelers inside. I never knew quite what to say when people back home asked why I was going to Boston if I wasn't a delegate.

As I leaned against the barrier with my “End the Occupation of Iraq” sign, the young olive skinned woman next to me called out repeatedly “Tell Kerry to get us out of Iraq.” Her voice still echoes in my head.

This is why I came.

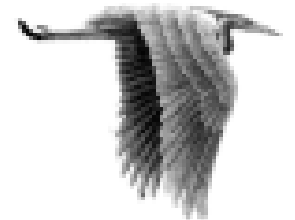
Mary Madsen

“We must remember that the lonely struggle taking place in a heavily guarded compound in Rangoon is part of the much larger struggle, worldwide, for the emancipation of the human spirit from political tyranny and psychological subjugation.”

- Aung San Suu Kyi

“We must become the change we want to be.” - Mahatma Gandhi

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Resource for Preservation

The Klamath Restoration Council is a consortium of groups with the mission to restore and protect the uniquely diverse ecosystem and natural resources of the entire Klamath River watershed. This will be accomplished with actions and legislation that integrate sound and proven techniques based on Tribal knowledge, local experience and the best of Western science.

www.pelicanetwork.net/krc.html
PO Box 2632 Weaverville, CA 96093
(530) 627-3054

Peace Cranes from page 1

Student Union. Don Wells donated new copies of his historical pamphlet *"The Decision to Drop the Bombs"* (and yes, the comment that we had no choice but to drop the bomb still comes up, but now I can just silently hand them Don's research.)

This year's Hiroshima/Nagasaki vigil collected over 250 postcards to deliver to legislators and was also a part of Nuclear Days of Action sponsored by Be Safe, a new consortium of anti-nuclear and environmental groups with the demand "Clean Up, Don't Build Up".

It is not too late to contact your senator and demand NO FUNDING in the Energy and Water Appropriations Bill for new nuclear weapons (called Advanced Concepts research), the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, the Modern Pit Facility, and restarting the Nevada Test Site. Because of successful grass roots organizing and effort, the House removed funding for these four programs, on the basis that the funding would launch a new arms race and undermine any progress to global disarmament. Please contact your senators and support the work that is being done to minimize the damage from

nuclear research! Senator Gordon Smith needs to hear from us before the Senate vote on the bill in early September. He can be contacted at oregon@gsmith.senate.gov or at 541-608-9102 in Medford.

We are also alerting all our representatives and senators to the irreversible damage of using Depleted Uranium. Thank you to Mori Garloff for writing the sample DU letter that inspired people to write as they stopped by the Hiroshima/Nagasaki vigil.

On Saturday night, Wide Awake Film Forum hosted a Nagasaki/Hiroshima film night and 30 people came out to see films about Depleted Uranium, nuclear pollution and Hanford.

A huge hug to all of this year's vigilers: Julie Norman, Vicky, Willow, Ken Deveney, Jill Mackie (Linda's super hero mom), Grace Hamilton, Betty Swinnerton, Carola Lacy, Jan Acord, Nancy Golden, Claire Collins, Irene Saikevych, Shirley Patton, Nancy Spencer, Barbara Thacker, Pat Colwell, Barry Peckman, Helga Motley, Lynn Levin, Renee Cote, Hal Anthony (Renee and Anthony came all the way from Grants Pass!), Reagan and Gerry Cavanaugh, Don and June Wells, Mary

Lou Bayliss, Bob Morse, Jaelle Dragomir, Jon Dowd, (Linda's husband extraordinaire, who painstakingly washed our sunshade and also set up and broke down the space every day), Bob Alteras, Laura Marshall, Suzi Aufderheide, Jonnie Dale Liberman, Selene Aitken, Alisa Stucky, Carey, Paula and Helena Sohl, Cathy Egelston, Ara Johnson, and Cynthia Zavatska.

Sunday evening we traced bodies with chalk on the pavement to represent the shadows left at the epicenters of both Hiroshima and Nagasaki, while a local drumming group played for us.

We closed the vigil with many tears as Paula Sohl performed an original song with the chorus, "our children are not meant for war." Pam Vellutini on guitar, accompanied by Nancy Spencer and her ethereal saw, performed "Cranes Over Hiroshima" as the group sang along. Suzi Aufderheide facilitated a discussion in the closing circle. Dot Fisher-Smith explained the story of Novozybkov, a town which was sacrificed as the Soviets seeded the Chernobyl cloud so the radiation would not fall on Moscow.

Next year will be the 60th anniversary. Help us create a memorable event! Please contact Peace House. We would like to do something special, but this year will always be special to me. A young woman on her way to teach in Hiroshima stopped when she saw our banner "Sadako's Dream: A World at Peace". She took a hundred of our peace cranes to place on Sadako's statue. As people began helping to take down the sun shade and peace cranes, Noah Sohl said he wanted to tell the senators the story of Sadako. If he could do that, he was sure they would not want more nuclear weapons and would work for disarmament. Unfortunately, both Sen. Ron Wyden and Sen Gordon Smith said they were too busy to meet with Noah and I before the September vote. We hope to meet with them soon, for Sadako's Dream is ours, too.

Linda Richards

Peace House Co-Director.

DEQ Will Not Relax Pollution Rules in Rogue Valley

July 28th, the Oregon State Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced that, due to the largest response to a DEQ issue in history, they were dropping the proposal to relax industrial pollution rules in the Rogue Valley! If you commented to the DEQ on their misguided proposal you may have received a letter to that effect from Stephanie Hallock, DEQ Director, who included the comment that "protecting air quality and public health means less flexibility for economic development." Seems they still can't accept the fact that maintaining clean air need not have a negative influence on economic development! Reminds me of someone who just won't give up on WMD's.

Grass roots movements do work, thanks to all of you and the 5000 who took time to express their views, but we have to stay with them. Our core group, now known as the Jackson County Air Quality Task Force, continues to meet on a regular basis. DEQ will be making a recommendation to the Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) on Dec. 9 and 10 in Portland regarding our air quality rules. Although DEQ makes recommendations, EQC is the rulemaking board of 5 members (4 members now, Southern Oregon seat is vacant) appointed by the governor, and according to Bob Palzer, who has years of experience with these entities, EQC does not have to accept DEQ recommendations. Therefore, we will probably need a strong showing at that Portland meeting.

Although this DEQ announcement is more than we hoped for at this time, we are cautiously optimistic. Our area has been classified a non-attainment area since the days when the Rogue Valley pollution level exceeded the unhealthy Federal Standard by double or more. Our non-attainment classification mandates numerous protections that could be in jeopardy with reclassification to an attainment area, which we feel DEQ will recommend to the EQC. We will be proactive with DEQ attempting to ensure, first and foremost, that none of these rules are lost, while additionally requesting increased and more accurate monitoring.

Sue Densmore, Democratic candidate for County Commissioner and clean air advocate, has been extremely helpful in facilitating information between our group and DEQ, local government, and the governor. Densmore's opponent, C. W. Smith, according to his website, would like to revisit the DEQ issue, and still supports the DEQ proposal to relax the rules. His views on our environment are very worrisome, from air quality to supporting Measure 37, to logging in ancient reserves and roadless areas. If you can help or for more information, call me at 608-0378.

Gaylene Hurley



(L) Peace House Co-directors Linda and Grady, (R) Robert Greygrass and friends.



(L&R) Quiet moments during the peace vigil. Photos by Helga Motley

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Southern Oregon ACLU News

Recent activities include ongoing work with a coalition lobbying the Jackson County Board of Commissioners to adopt a resolution opposing provisions of the Patriot Act. In June the chapter participated in the Oregon Safe and Free ACLU road show event in Medford. Chapter board members accompanied ACLU staff to news media briefings and co-hosted a presentation at the Medford library attended by 180 people. Chapter board members Jan Lofthouse of Ashland and Phil Studenberg of Klamath Falls shared the podium with Executive Director Dave Fidanque.

This summer, the chapter has been interested in a new Ashland ordinance prohibiting public nudity. There are concerns about regulating political and artistic expression, and criminalizing victimless behavior.

Board members met with the Jackson

County DA regarding a civil Grand Jury investigating the county jail. This research is ongoing.

The Chapter Board held a retreat at Fort Klamath near Crater Lake on August 14th and developed plans for a series of study sessions on civil liberties topics. The first event will cover rights of homeless persons and indigent defense on September 18, 10:00 AM, at the Medford library.

The Chapter annual meeting at 2:00 PM on October 9th at the Ashland library will include videos about the PATRIOT Act. These dates and locations are preliminary. Call the Medford hotline at 858-3349 for updated event information.

The Southern Oregon Chapter of the ACLU of Oregon includes members in Jackson, Josephine, and Klamath counties.

Paul Copeland

Peace Community Calendar

Citizens for Peace and Justice Protest

September 4 and October 6, Saturday, noon to 1 pm.
See article p.6

Summer Hike Medicine Lake

September 11 Contact Lesley@kswild.org or call 541-488-5789

14th Annual Pottsville Intertribal Powwow "10th Year at Pottsville, 2004"

September 11th and 12th, 2004
Pottsville, Pleasant Valley Road, Merlin, Oregon
Saturday 12-5pm and 7-11pm Sunday 1-4pm
For more information: Lucie 541-474-2690, Judy 541-476-0126

A Showing of the "The Wall"

RVTV 11 - 12 pm on a Wednesday in September. A film of Palestinian & international demonstrators protesting against the wall - filmed by a peace activist who recently visited Palestine. For over a year, Israel has been constructing a 'security barrier', officially intended to prevent Palestinian suicide bombers from entering Israel. The 8 meter high wall encroaches well into the Palestinian occupied territories, eating up vital agricultural land and even requiring house demolitions along its route. Viewed as an outrageous 'land grab' by Palestinians, will it actually prevent 'terrorism' or merely increase the resentment and further fuel the violent resistance?

Look for more info on our Peace House email. To procure the film for \$25.00 (includes shipping) contact American Friends Service Committee Pacific, Mountain Region, 65 Ninth Street San Francisco CA 94103-1401

ACLU Study Session

September 18, 10:00 AM, Medford library. Rights of homeless persons and indigent defense. Call the ACLU hotline at 858-3349 for updated event information.

Counter-Military Recruitment General Interest Meetings

September 13, Monday, 6:00 pm at Peace House 543 South Mountain St.
Get connected to work against the aggressive military recruitment of low income youth and help create alternatives!

Conscientious Objector Counseling Meeting

September 15, Wednesday, 6pm - 7:30pm Help create outreach and a CO counseling center at Peace House. More information, call 482-9625

Candidate Forum in Medford

Medford City Council Chambers Sept 21, 7:00 pm

Southern Oregon Friends of Cuba

September 22, Wednesday, 7:00 pm at Peace House.
We want to educate Ashland about US Trade policy and engage the community in solidarity events.

Car Free Day

September 22. Sponsored by the Ashland Bike and Pedestrian Commission!

Norman Solomon, Medea Benjamin and Daniel Ellsberg Speak: "The Presidential Election 2004 and Beyond: What's at Stake"

September 24, Friday, 7:30 pm Unitarian Fellowship, 87 Fourth Street, Ashland. \$3.00
More info at www.peacehouse.net

Multicultural Fair

Sept. 25, in Alba Park (Oregon Action and Peace House will have a booth)

Peace House Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Raffle

September 30, Thursday 6pm at the Presbyterian Church on the corner of Siskiyou and Walker. And a raffle too! A beautiful Betty LaDuke giclee is the grand prize! See item page 3

Candidate Forum in Ashland

Sept 30, 7:00 pm. City Council Chambers 1155 E. Main, Ashland

Veterans for Peace

Look for them to come to town on October 4

Candidate Forum in Medford

Oct. 5, 7:00 pm. Medford City Council Chambers

Dr. Michael Parenti to Speak

Oct 7, Thursday Evening, Ashland High School Theatre
Time to be announced. See item on page 3

Annual Meeting of the Southern Oregon Chapter of the ACLU

October 9, Saturday 2:00 pm, Ashland Library. With videos about the PATRIOT Act. Call the ACLU hotline at 858-3349 for updated event information.

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October 15-17, 2004, Lane Community College, Eugene OR
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Contact Sherisa Aguirre @ sherisa@bridgingworldsnw.org or call (541) 345-6919 to learn more about how you can get involved. Registration is available on line @ www.bridgingworldsnw.org or by phone @ 1-866-384-3060. www.bioneers.org

Phil Ochs Concert & Auction

October 24 Sunday, 6:30 Doors open for silent auction for Peace House
Unitarian Center, 4th and C Streets, Ashland
\$17 in advance, \$20 at the door, \$10 for kids 5-17
Info for tickets at www.stclairerevents.com

ONGOING:

Free, Confidential HIV testing and counseling

Every Wednesday, 5pm to 6pm at the Abdill-Ellis Lambda Community Center in the Old Armory on Oak St. in Ashland. Call the Center 541-488-6990 for more info.

Speakers Clearinghouse proudly presents:
A Nonpartisan Grassroots Speakers Tour of the Northwest
September 24th to October 1st

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WHAT'S AT STAKE

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NORMAN SOLOMON
Relentlessly vocal columnist and author of *SECRET ISAG: WHAT THE NEWS MEDIA DOESN'T TELL YOU*

September 24, 7:30 pm

Unitarian Center, 87 Fourth Street, Ashland
\$3.00 For ticket outlets visit www.peacehouse.net

First Amendment from page 1

licly. He was abruptly suspended from coaching and teaching in March, 2003, at a time when President Bush declared, “You’re either with us or against us”. Nevins was banned from the RRHS campus. In media interviews, Nevins challenged the school administration’s actions as an affront to freedom of speech and a chilling of student creative expression. In May, 2003 Nevins was informed that his teaching contract would not be renewed. The school allowed one uncensored poem to be read at a flag raising ceremony that said “those who stand for peace shut your faces.”

Following Nevins’s removal, the RRHS Poetry Team disbanded, and to date no such team has been reinstated, as no faculty member has been willing to step forward and sponsor it. As one student lamented, “they seem too afraid.” Nevins donated back over \$7000 to the school district under the condition that they apply it to hiring a sponsor and providing support for the re-establishment of the Team.

A series of benefit poetry and music concerts were held across the USA in support of Nevins’s free speech struggle, including a July Independence Weekend show at New York’s Bowery Poetry Club and shows in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, NM and in New England. Support for Nevins’s cause came in from the international writers’ organization PEN, from the National Writers Union (of which Nevins is a member) and from dozens of prominent writers, in New Mexico and elsewhere, including folksinger Utah Phillips, Filipina novelist Jessica Hagedorn, songwriter Jenny Bird, poet Demetria Martinez, Cajun recording star Zachary Richard, rockers Larry Kirwan, Chris Byrne and Tuli Kupferberg and slam poetry heroes Saul Williams and Bob Holman. The NYC Irish-rock band The Ruffians played a special concert to back Nevins, and messages of support have come in from Australia, Europe, Latin America and Africa.

The experience of being a living symbol of defense of American Constitutional freedoms was made especially poignant for Nevins by the fact that his son has been a US Army soldier serving in combat in both Afghanistan and Iraq throughout the period of Nevins’s prolonged struggle here in New Mexico.

Nevins gave the following statement about the case and settlement: “The positive resolution of my case with Rio Rancho School District brings a sense of relief that the Constitutional right to freedom of speech and the redress of grievances has been reaffirmed. I hope that this positive resolution will foster in our schools the spirit of a marketplace of free exchange of ideas and opinions which was present in my classes and in the Write Club and Poetry Team at Rio Rancho High School. I hope that students and teachers will be encouraged. I hope that the youthful voices of poetry, and the voices of the disadvantaged, the dissident and the dispossessed among us will continue to sing out without fear of censorship and intimidation, in Rio Rancho, throughout New Mexico, and everywhere. I pray that those voices may lead us all towards lasting justice and peace. I note that

even the Rio Rancho High military liaison in the course of discovery for this case stated that he had undergone a change in attitude in the face of the losses we have suffered in the Iraq War. People can change, and change can be for the good.

When I think of those of my students, especially those who are people of color and those who come from less financially-favored homes, I am filled with joyful memories of their writings and of their outspoken words raised to be heard in the Write Club and Poetry Team. I am filled with sadness to think that their voices could have been ignored or silenced by those in power and by those charged with their educational care. I do believe that such students inevitably will speak out, will sing out, again. They shall not be silenced. As the great African-American poet Langston Hughes wrote in his poem, “Democracy”: “Democracy will not come today, this year, nor ever, through compromise and fear. Freedom is a strong seed planted in a great need.” May that seed of freedom keep growing here in New Mexico.”

It has been an honor to represent Nevins. This case is a victory for teachers everywhere who, in the current climate of fear, have grown silent in the face of censorship and calls for blind patriotism. Our nation’s greatest achievements have often come from those who dissented and were willing to question the status quo. Students are our future. Bill Nevins provided a forum for students to express themselves and question the world around them. To progress as a nation we need more teachers willing to approach the central and often most controversial issues of our day without fear of retribution. I hope this case can empower teachers and send a message to students that there is justice even in the most trying of times.

Eric Sirotkin

Peace

Imagine bridging gods and grief
balm and the brambly seas
as easily as tree branches sway
in the afternoon breeze.

Just like a four year olds playtime
goes from pretending to be on the beach
to swiftly bothering the cat
and then back to water play
just as simply.

If only connections were so effortless.

Vanessa Houk

4th of July WIB/Peace House Gallery



The WIB/Peace House entry received standing ovations from the crowd.



Photos by Helga Motley

Women In Black

In Medford, first and third Wednesdays of the month at noon on Vogel Plaza for a half hour of silence. In Ashland, Fridays at noon on the Ashland Plaza. In Grants Pass, first and third Mondays at 11am to 11:30 at the Post office and after, meeting to noon at the Community Room behind The Creative Alternative (229A G St, under the Art Museum) In Cave Junction, Mondays at noon for a half hour at the County building. In Roseburg, every Friday at 12:30-1pm in front of the fire station on Garden Valley. For information call (541) 677-9118.

WIB T-shirts

Women in Black T-shirts are available at Peace House with an original design by Darnell Designs for a \$10 donation.

Community Meal

Tuesday

Each Tuesday, Uncle Food’s Diner provides free meals for the hungry with food donated by the Walker Peace Garden, Ashland Food Coop, S.O.U., and P.C. Market of Choice. Come as a volunteer (no need to call) and help with food prep at 3 pm or with serving and cleanup from 4:30 to 6:30pm. Come to help and eat a good dinner too! It’s fun and fulfilling to see Peace in Action. Anyone is welcome, in the spirit of a true community dinner.

Uncle Food’s Diner is serving at United Methodist Church, in the Wesley Hall at 175 N. Main, on the corner of N. Main and Laurel. For more information call Peace House 482-9625.

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