

Local Progressive News from the **Nashville Peace & Justice Center**

Building a Peaceful Culture After the Bombs Stop Falling

Letter from the Center

Reconstructing the US

I came to awareness in the shadow of the mushroom clouds that rose over Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the close of World War II. Underlying all of America's "little wars" since then (Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Grenada, Panama, Iraq, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq again, and others) there ran and runs a

Karl Meyer ~ War Resisters League

subtext of two never-ending quiet wars. One is the low intensity war of western culture against the biological viability of our mother Earth. The other is the imperial war of US culture against weaker countries for control and exploitation of the limited material resources of our planet. In the first of these world wars, we pollute air, land and water and deplete the topsoil and the mineral resources the web of life depends on for health and survival. In the second, we spend about \$800 billion a year (that's \$2900 per capita for every person in the United States) to pay our war debts and project military power all over the planet, helping us control oil and other economic resources.

The avaricious momentum of our culture inexorably drives us into repeated outbreaks of hot war. We cannot reverse our own participation in this process of culture by holding more demonstrations and events advocating for peace. It is delusionary to believe that we might change the momentum of our culture by driving faster, outracing the Bush government, and heading it off on the road to the next hot war. We must slow down our own lives. We must think about where we are going and understand how our own economic and social patterns of life contribute to the overall.....>>>continued page 4



Katey Culver introduces the Clean Energy Fair at the morning's discussion. Photo by Carla Dean.

The War on Iraq is a symptom of the corporate globalization and global militarism that has been deliberately constructed since the inception of the United States of America.

Matt Leber ~ NPJC Coordinator

The Bush Administration is a problem, but NAFTA, ushered in by President Clinton, has also systematically transferred power from communities to transnational corporations. The Free Trade Area of the Americas Agreement (FTAA) will further impoverish all of Latin America and concentrate the power into even fewer hands.

May the blatant actions of our government to ignore public opinion, to feign

attempts at international community offer us the needed motivation to commit ourselves and all of our human resources toward the pursuit of peace and justice.

In the last 8 months we have organized almost 50 teach-ins, forums and rallies bringing the substance of peace work to the public eye. NPJC has done this with \$25,000 a year budget. We now seek to transform the momentum of the movement into sustainable programming.

In Nashville, we can address the causes of the War on Terrorism by developing a broad-based foundation for peace and justice at the local level.

NPJC is proactively addressing the causes of injustice through three areas of work:

- **Building a Culture of Peace** (individual and community level),
- **Localizing Global Justice** (organizational level), and
- **Creating Community and Understanding** (intercommunity level).

We are building a foundation for activism and organizing in Nashville, and we need your help.

[To see how you can help, see page 5.]

Some Surveillance on "Patriot Act II"

The American Civil Liberties Union has looked closely at the Justice Department's new Domestic Security

Enhancement Act of 2003, known as "Patriot II." Some of its most disturbing features are these:

Gene TeSelle ~ LA CASA

- A new category of "domestic security surveillance" that permits electronic eavesdropping on entirely domestic activities (Sec. 122).
- A new crime of using encryption technology, adding five years to any sentence for crimes committed with a computer (Sec. 404).
- Secret access to credit reports, without consent and without judicial process (Sec. 126).
- Sampling and cataloguing of innocent Americans' genetic information, without court order and without consent (Secs. 301-6).
- Termination of court-ordered limits on police spying, put in place to prevent McCarthy-style persecution based on political or religious affiliation (Sec. 312).
- Searches, wiretaps and surveillance of US citizens in behalf of foreign governments including dictatorships and abusers of human rights in the absence of explicit treaties (Secs. 321-22).
- Limits on defense attorneys' challenges to use of secret evidence in criminal cases (Sec. 204).>>>continued on page 3

Nashville Peace and Justice Center

A community-based, multi-issue center for the Middle Tennessee region. It seeks to promote peacemaking, social justice, and environmental issues in our society and around the world.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State

Amnesty International

Bring Urban Recycling to Nashville Today

Church Women United

Clergy and Laity Concerned

Common Cause

Community Relations Committee / Jewish Federation

Cumberland Greens Bioregional Council

The Emma Center

Earth Matters

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashville

Greater Nashville Unitarian Universalist

Interfaith Alliance of Middle Tennessee

Latin American Central American Solidarity Association

Living Wage Campaign of Nashville

Middle Tennessee Presbytery / Peace With Justice Committee

Mideast Peace Coalition

Nashville Friends Meeting

National Organization for Women

Pan Africa

Radio Free Nashville

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

The Scarritt Bennett Center

Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing

United Nations Association

United Nubian Congress

Veterans for Peace

War Resisters League

ALTERNATIVES

is the official bimonthly publication of the Nashville Peace & Justice Center

EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE

Aisha Begum, Chris Lugo, Maya Nitis, Becky Renfrow, Gene TeSelle, and Christina Van Regenmorter

SUBMISSIONS

We seek cartoons, articles, letters, and photos related to peace and justice issues relevant to the Tennessee progressive community. We will try to respect the integrity of your submissions, but we reserve the right to edit for clarity, grammar, spelling, and length.

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christina@nashvillepeacejustice.org

Report Back from Iraq, part 1

Kathy Kelly's speech in Nashville on June 14, transcribed by Becky Renfrow

I guess my message is, in many ways, quite simple. Where you stand determines what you see. I think that during this most recent war making against Iraq, many of the people here in this church today stood firmly, wanting to communicate that war was

Kathy Kelly ~ Voices in the Wilderness

not what you wanted for Iraqi people. Many of you, no doubt, were making your views felt and known in ways that took a lot of energy and time and creativity and hard work. It may be tempting to feel a little discouraged, thinking "well, we tried so hard," and it may seem as though we aren't able to do anything in the face of the tremendous resource and ability and creativity that's enmeshed and invested into warmaking. Well, certainly, that would be exactly what the warmakers would like

us to feel. Yet, I hope that you know we are 6% of the world's population. The other 94% of the world is home to many, many people who were in complete agreement with those who were part of the anti-war movement. I think, internationally, the anti-war movement came closer than it ever has before to that critical mass that we want so badly we can taste it — that critical mass that could stop a war before it starts.

If you are feeling you need to take a break, by all means do. However, for those who want to continue to move forward on the possibility of promoting peacemaking and the kind of a world wherein its easier to be good, I think this is a very ripe time to act. One of the things that's quite necessary in order to prevent a next war is to tell the truth about this one, and that's why I'm all the more pleased to be with you today. I think that there is some truth that I could offer having been present with people in Baghdad for all but three weeks from October, 2002 to April 19, 2003.

One of the things that I suppose people might have felt uncertain about was just how shocking was the shock and awe campaign. In a church, it is difficult even to utter that phrase "Shock and Awe." The word awe belongs in the province of the sacred, and I greatly doubt that anybody here ever wants to see themselves as ever being awed in the sense of genuflection to that which maims

and orphans and slaughters. The shock and awe campaign did what it set out to do. I think it was a clear expression of the avowed aims of terrorists everywhere. People in Iraq were frightened close to death.

I can talk to you about pre-traumatic stress disorder. I know one woman, Um Heider, who said, "It is very, very, very hard when all you can do is to sit and to wait for your city to be bombed." Some women weren't going to just sit and wait. They took it upon themselves to go to the Dominican Maternity Hospital (I happen to know of 8 in one particular day), and they gave birth to their

babies by caesarian section shortly before the war began because they didn't want to give birth to babies under bombardment.

Across Iraq, I think there was the sense of being in the cross hairs of the world's largest firing squad, desiring to protect their children, wishing they had some place to which they could flee, wanting releasing from Saddam Hussein, but bewildered as to why the world would so belea-

guer them at this point. It almost seemed that what was being said was: "We had to starve you so we could stop bombing you, and now we have to bomb you so we can stop starving you." People were bracing themselves and trying to keep a stiff upper lip, much of that on behalf of the children who comprise 46% of the population of Iraq. In the first two days of operation Shock and Awe, we were starting to wonder if maybe it would take a lot more than what had been launched against Iraq to really shock and awe the Iraqi people who were still going out to the market places, who were still out in the roadways. I remember thinking, "Well, this is very curious. In Chicago, some of the Hardware stores have run out of duct tape and plywood and plastic and finally at the AlFonar Hotel (the family run hotel where I stayed which had by then become to about 5 extended families and some of the hotel workers and their children as well) a couple of the young guys in white shirts and black ties sauntered out with a roll of duct tape and started to do the X-ing tape on the windows. People didn't seem to be beside themselves with anything even close to panic.

I pieced it together a bit better when I returned home and read the army times about Day 3 of the bombing, characterized by the army as A Day. On Day 3, 2000 sorties flew over Iraq and well over 100 missiles were dropped on Iraq... >>>page 7



Photo by Susan Adcock

Waging Peace [from within the walls]

Jessica Humphrey ~ Results

You have probably read about the injustices of the case of death row inmate Abu-Ali Abdur'Rahman, but you may not have heard the other stories of this deeply spiritual poet, painter, flutist, counselor, and scholar who, although he has experienced a level of

betrayal that few of us can imagine, has courageously transformed hurt into compassion and service.

When asked about spending his life in prison, Abu-Ali said, "the future is answerable only to the Great Mystery" — a reminder that our activism and passion are essential in these times, but we are not ultimately in control of the outcome. Our means is the only end we can depend on.

Much as he calls his Muslim brothers in the prison to worship, he calls us to remember our roles as peacemakers and justice-birthers in this world — to "be" peace wherever we are, within whatever walls have been built around us.

May we "be" peace within the walls that have been built around us.

Within his walls, Abu-Ali offers prayers for those who are suffering, tries to find creative ways to communicate nonviolence, and practices a deep generosity.

After Columbine, Abu-Ali worked with a prison officer to create a video about nonviolence for a fifth grade classroom. Last year, when he was preparing to be executed, Abu provided shower curtains to give privacy to other men on death row. Abu-Ali is also

starting his third (two years is the maximum) year as his pod's elected representative on grievances. Numerous evaluations from the prison praise his service and commitment, and currently, Abu is the assistant editor of *Compassion*, a nationwide magazine distributed to death row inmates.

With the limited funds Abu-Ali earns working in the kitchen at Riverbend Maximum Security Prison, he has sponsored a child to attend summer camp, has made several donations to Ujima House (a shelter and outreach center to women of color who have been in abusive situations), and has invited other inmates to do so as well. Until he was denied access by the prison, Abu was a regular guest on a Fisk Radio call-in show, sharing wisdom from his hurtful past. He touched many, opening his life experience for others to glean understanding for themselves.

In his own words: *"By me being through everything a child should not go through, I'm able to [share] with [young people] and give them some ideas, and then they can find some kind of resolution. I can continue my responsibilities, and that's to assist those young people who are now inquiring and want something, some insight that they may want.... I can't dwell on me spending the rest of my time in the penitentiary. I've got to go on the fact that I have an opportunity to make sure that whatever needs to be said is said. And dwelling on that level makes me more strong within, because this type of treatment that certain people receive in this life has just got to stop."*

Prisons are not places of rehabilitation. They are capitalist ventures (Nashville is, after all, home to Corrections Corporation of America, one of the world's fastest growing prison corporations in the world). They prosper at the.....>>>**continued on page 4**

Some Surveillance... continued from page 1 >>>

- Immunity for businesses that provide information to the government in terrorist investigations (Sec. 313).
- Stripping citizenship rights from anyone who provides support to unpopular organizations labeled as terrorist by the government, even if they support only the lawful activities of such organizations (Sec. 501).

The Patriot I Act, passed quickly in the wake of September 11, expires after two and a half years. We do not need anything as drastic as Patriot II. It's ironic that the Bush Administration, though talking about loosening Saddam Hussein's stranglehold on the Iraqi people "finger by finger," is eager to pass this legislation.

Timothy Edgar, ACLU Legislative Counsel, says that this draft legislation "threatens to fundamentally alter the constitutional protections that allow us as Americans to be both safe and free." He goes on to say that it reduces checks on government authority, reduces the accountability of the government to the public by increasing secrecy, and erodes the right of all persons to due process of law.

NPJC Member Profile

Americans United

for Separation of Church and State

When Charles Sumner first became a member of Americans United for Separation of Church and State (AU), he

Christina Van Regenmorter ~ NPJC staff

did so at the advice of his United Methodist Bishop. In an environment where the ties between communities of faith and government funding are becoming more raveled, Nashville's chapter of AU is becoming increasingly more important.

"In my view, the encroachment of religions on our secular society is one of the most, if not the most, imminent dangers we face as a free society," Don Peterson said when asked why he was an AU member. "The last thing we need in America is for us to turn into a theocracy."

With an alert, aware, and active populace, AU believes that America stands a good chance of preserving both its religious diversity and its political integrity. "The most important service provided by AU in middle Tennessee is to keep the citizens aware of any venture made to disturb, or destroy the first amendment to the constitution of the US," said AU treasurer C.E. Farrar. "[We need] to keep the sly encroachments visible."

AU welcomes volunteers. They need people at home to write letters to editors and public officials, to phone the media, look up phone numbers, contact prospects, and to recruit clergy to add to the list of 32 supporters. AU also needs people who will attend meetings, participate in committees, and staff tables at public events. And they, like most nonprofits in this fair city, are in need of a good webmaster.

For more information, contact Charles Sumner at president@nashville-au.org or check out their website at <http://www.nashville-au.org/>.

"When a religion is good, I conceive it will support itself; and when it does not support itself so that its professors are obliged to call for the help of the civil power, 'tis a sign, I apprehend, of its being a bad one." — Benjamin Franklin

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

— 1st Amendment to the US Constitution

Clean Energy Fair

On Saturday, June 7, 2003, the Nashville Peace and Justice Center's Clean Energy Fair began with a panel discussion given by nine different specialists. Gil Hough, from *Southern Alliance for Clean Energy*, identified the immediate problem of society's disgusting dependency on unrenewable resources. "Is how we

Carla Dean ~ NPJC Volunteer

generate our energy killing us?" Hough asked. Energy generation has been a component in almost every major war in the last century – besides its cost on the ecosystems and communities that support it. In an attempt to solve these problems, Hough suggested that we make choices that reflect our commitment towards renewable sources of energy.

One way to change energy consumption is to be involved in "green building. Julie Anderson from *Johnson Controls* explained that green building uses recycled and environmentally friendly

system and urban sprawl; the massive amount of driving coupled with the sprawl and beast-like highway system is killing Tennessee's environment. Echoing Barrie's dissatisfaction with the \$700 million Tennessee spends on its road system, Sean Davies from *Walk/Bike Nashville* offered a humanpowered alternative that decreases obesity, increases health, and completely cuts out pollution.

James White, a man who runs his truck on oil collected at his local Mexican restaurant, spoke about bio-diesel. "The diesel engine was created to run on peanut oil," said White. "There's no reason why it can't again." Also talking about different fuel options, David Pelton from *Clean Cities Nashville* talked about the Hydrogen Fuel Cell, President Bush's suggestion as an alternative to gasoline. Dr. Ricketts from MTSU saw America's 2 billion dollar dependency on foreign oil as a problem back in 1978 during the first oil crisis. Since 1978, he has successfully crafted a cars that run on ethanol, methane, hydrogen, and an electric hybrid that runs on solar, water, wind, and gravity power. Howard Switzer, an architect with *Ecoville Architects*, spoke about



Ed Lambert answers questions about bike maintenance. Photos by Carla Dean



Dr. Ricketts from MTSU shows off his hydrogen fuel cell powered car.



About 80 people came for lunch, provided by the NPJC's volunteer cooks.

building materials on recycled sites with an intention to save resources and green space. The U.S. department of Green Building Council and LEAD are monitoring "green building," and, with public pressure and corporate support, green buildings are growing. Tennessee used the highest amount of Kilowatt hours per house in America, and Thomas Tripp, from *Big Frog Mountain Corporation*, explained some tangible ways people could help reduce their energy usage and create their own energy. "The average Tennessee citizen drives thirty seven miles a day," said Jeff Barrie, an activist and documentary filmmaker. Barrie spoke on the ineffectiveness of Tennessee's present roadway

hemp, the plant that was, before the 20th century, one of America's top exports. Used to create everything from rope to porridge, hemp oil could also be a viable bio-diesel. The panelists ate lunch with the attendees at the First Unitarian Universalist church, listening to V. Kozlowski and Greg Welch playing jazz in the sanctuary. Following lunch, there were three hours of informative and educational workshops from the panelists, as well as outdoor demonstrations on everything from bike maintenance to setting up solar paneling.

Waging Peace [from within the walls

...from page 3>>> expense of programs that could uplift communities, and they train in vengeance, repercussion, and punishment. But against the odds, Abu-Ali has recovered his sense of freedom through a life of service — finding connection in a disconnected place, shining Light into the darkness.

As we continue to speak out for Abu-Ali (and Phillip Workman and the other men who have become victims of our state's death penalty system), as we continue to shed light on the war/reconstruction in Iraq, the LES uranium plant, and all of the sacred endeavors that beckon to us, may we choose the path of peacemakers, not only in outcome, but in this present moment. May we find peace within ourselves and may we "be" peace within the walls that have been built around us.

To learn more about Abu-Ali's case and/or get involved, visit the website at www.abu-ali.org.

Quotes in this article are taken from Amanda Wardle's 2-part interview with Abu-Ali in the City Paper (May 23 & 27).

Special thanks and blessings to Abu-Ali — thank you for allowing me to carry a bit of your story.



CURBY Recycling Guidelines



Mixed Paper

YES - everything in mail and office. **NO** - paper towels, wax paper, napkins, tissue, juice and soy milk cartons.

Cardboard

Yes - cardboard boxes, brown paper bags, paperboard, cereal boxes. **NO** - waxed boxes, pizza boxes

Plastic

YES - clean plastic bottles 1&2
NO - all other plastic

Glass

YES - clean green, clear and

brown bottles and jars.

NO - anything not a container

Aluminum and metal cans

YES - aluminum and metal lids and containers. **NO** - aerosol cans, aluminum foil or pie plates, hangers, and other various metals.

Hazardous Waste?

Call 880-1000.

Questions?

Call Sherry Sloan at 862-4067

Visit:

www.nashville.gov/recycle

NPJC Sustainability Fund

GOAL: \$50,000 by October 1st, 2003

HOW: 110 Individuals to donate:

- 20 give 100 per month.
- 20 give 50 per month.
- 30 give 25 per month.
- 40 give 10 per month.



photo by Al Levinson

Fifty thousand dollars will triple the NPJC budget, allow us to hire a full-time organizer to support the work of local campaign.

Soon you will receive a letter from us asking you to become part of the Sustainability Team. Through an automatic bank withdrawal program you will help ensure that NPJC can focus on its work to educate, mobilize and organize. If you can afford \$100 per month, thank you. If you can afford \$10 or \$5 a month, thank you. If you can't donate but wish to volunteer time, thank you. Your contribution will make a difference.

According to the National Priorities Project, the median income household in Nashville paid \$2,671 in taxes last year. 26% of your taxes went directly to military spending while less than 8% went to veteran's benefits, education, and housing combined.

Where your money goes is important. Make it count.

Reconstructing the US...continued from page 1 >>>

momentum of violence. If we who believe in peace do not alter destructive patterns of our lives, who else in society will begin the necessary changes? If we do not lead the way into a different style of culture, how else will others even have a model to follow?

We must use much less energy per capita. We must lead lives with more economic leisure, lazier lives, that burn up less of the world's resources. What we use, we must use in a biologically renewable pattern. We must figure out how to share limited world resources more equitably with the humans and other living things that create our biological matrix. If we go on living in much the same way as everyone else, a more frantic pace of peace gatherings and educational events will not change much in the pattern of our culture.

Let me use an analogy: people may name themselves Christians; they may attend church services every Sunday, prayer meetings on Wednesdays, and other meetings during the week. But, if they do not truly understand and practice the core values of the Gospel—love, simplicity, mercy, sharing—their Christianity is questionable. We do not “see how these Christians love one another.” This is why we wonder about the Christian identity of George Bush or John Ashcroft, but the same applies to ethics and practice in other professions of faith. Why aren't we wondering about our individual peacemaker identities? We are quick to say “not in our name” and sign our names to pieces of paper, but what is the value of naming oneself as a peacemaker or worker for social justice without living differently?

At the Nashville Greenlands community, we have thought very carefully about these questions and have tried to design every aspect of our life to have a peaceful relationship to all people on Earth while fostering biological diversity in our own immediate surroundings, trying to restore a sustainable ecological balance. We live differently from the prevailing pattern of American culture in many ways.

In 1997, I bought an abandoned house and a vacant lot in North Nashville for \$26,000. Pam Beziat joined me in community in 1999 and added a second house. We have restored and insulated these houses, sharing space in the community with five other people. With 400 square feet per resident and no air conditioning, our use of electricity, heating and other energy is low. We spend less than \$100 per resident, per month, for all housing costs, including real estate taxes, maintenance, all utilities, and phone bills. We aim to reduce our use of gasoline and motor vehicles and use bicycles a lot. However, transportation is an area where we fall short of our goals, partly because of Nashville's poor public mass transit.

We cultivate organic gardens by hand in our yards, growing most of the vegetables and fruit we eat, within 100' of our own back doors. There are 35 varieties of fruit trees, grape vines and berry bushes in our yards. We also have small meadows, decorative

flowers and shrubs, and two small ponds with cattails and lotus. We mow only small parts of our yards for lawns and lanes, using hand mowers, with very little use of gasoline powered mowers that pollute the atmosphere. Our meadows and gardens attract many kinds of insects, snakes, lizards, frogs and birds. Our environment is beautiful, and we restore, in the heart of the city, an amazing biological diversity, more than exists in most comparable areas of natural habitat.

In the fall, we gather leaves from all over Nashville for composting and mulching in our gardens. We use most of our cardboard and newsprint waste for sheet mulching. We recycle everything else possible within the Metro solid waste recycling system. We salvage and recycle lumber and building materials for repairs. We get all of our bread and some other food as well by dumpster diving. We collect roof water in covered tanks to irrigate our gardens as needed.

Several of us refuse to pay any Federal income taxes because about half of all Federal income taxes are used for military costs, past and present. This has been so throughout our lifetimes. I have been refusing payment of military taxes for 44 years. We donate more than we would pay in taxes to meet social needs that serve the common good. I am one of the most knowledgeable people in the country on effective methods of war tax refusal. I have counseled thousands of war tax refusers, through my writings and in person, and I am always happy to counsel more.

Because of the leisure we gain from living simply and sharing expenses in community, we can be present and active in supporting almost every campaign for peace and social justice that is organized in Nashville. Three of us in the community work part time at carpentry or nursing; we are currently supporting and subsidizing four college-age interns doing volunteer work for peace and justice causes in Nashville. They are presently working for Manna, the Nashville Peace and Justice Center, and TCASK.

Americans have a long way to go to return to a sustainable way of life on Earth. Our social education and conditioning promotes an ideology of speed and economic growth. We are taught to pursue the good life by going faster and doing more, though we may be going around in a cycle of environmental destruction that drives itself. It is better to slow down, think carefully about where we want to go, and then head in the right direction.

The experience of my whole life tells me that we, in America, must learn to live in a radically different way. We must consume less, destroy less, and share the wealth of Earth with all that is alive around us, or we cannot have lasting peace with all who need to survive and thrive with us on the same planet.

We invite you to visit us, sit on the porch, munch vegetables, and think about the essence of a peaceful culture. Nashville Greenlands War Resisters League Chapter 2407 Heiman Street Nashville, TN 37208-2415. 615-322-9523 or 615-341-0255



Kathy Kelly and a visitor speak after the Report Back from Iraq. Photo by Dave Matthews



Kathy Kelly talks to Aisha Begum after her talk on the 14th. Photo by Dave Matthews

BURNT: A Recycling Solution

There is something wrong with Nashville's current recycling system. Seriously wrong. Household solid waste consisting of food, yard clippings, and other organic matter is shipped out by the ton to Rutherford County landfills to decompose and release dangerous methane gas in the landfill. Nashville's "Curby" is high cost, low production (diverting only 2% of waste stream), and supports the owners of landfills and solid waste haulers. On the other side, big business, big universities, and big hospitals generate the bulk of Metro solid waste. "Curby" focuses on individual homeowners in the Urban District; but this solid waste is only the (very expensive) tip of the iceberg.

BURNT's solution for Nashville recycling starts first with the development of a *real* solid waste plan that improves the present \$3 million, big money, no-bid, insider plan. Second, we need to help develop solid waste values in Nashville. This will happen only by spending money on effective citizen education and not on hundreds of "Curby" billboards and stickers. We need to improve citizen participation, reduce solid waste transportation costs, and educate Nashville on how to start backyard composting. Third, we need to focus on the big generators of solid waste. An effective recycling program needs to start with the big sources of waste (business, hospitals) to create a superstructure, and then we can focus on residential waste piece of the program.

Please contact your district councilperson and inform him or her that you demand recycling reform now. No more expensive, space-age dump trucks. You want your tax dollars paying for real results.

~ Bruce Wood, BURNT

WANTED Dead (not) or Alive NPJC Community Shares Rep

- attend monthly meetings (6 of 12)
- work on a CS committee
- assist w/ one fundraiser a year
- fax a report quarterly
- help increase Social Change funding

call: Randy Tatel (past rep) at 329-0048

An Invitation

For years, many of you have helped me support two projects in Nicaragua. These are community centers of the Movimiento Comunal, one in Granada and one in Corn Island. The Corn Island group has just won a year-long battle against an unjust electric rate hike. This year we hope to send \$1500 to the Los Gorrioncitos childcare and feeding center in Granada to repair

their buildings. You are invited to contribute to this effort.

J. S. Hepler

Letters . . .

Challenging the Conservative Christians' Approach to War

I've been getting e-mails promoting war with disturbing hate rhetoric from the same Christian entities that led the anti-tax movement (that movement has resulted in widespread deprivation for people in our state, as we have learned from the Governor's budget for the next fiscal year).

I'm concerned that the anti-tax protests were almost entirely led by conservative Christian leaders. That crisis, then the prelude to war and the reactions to actual war, have revealed that right-wing politics are transforming my fellow conservative Christians into something so antithetical to Christianity as presented by the New Testament.

I feel compelled to let people know that Jesus is being misrepresented by the Religious Right in these issues and to challenge my fellow conservative Christians to return from political beliefs that are rooted in contempt for the humanity God calls us to love. I have not heard many such appeals, so some one has to do it. God bless.

Becky Clark, NPJC member

Don't Forget Support

Supporting each other in every way possible is one way that each of us can contribute to the multiple ripple effects that ultimately make waves — as in "rock the boat."

Please make a habit of sending brief thank you e-mails to the authors when you read letters-to-the-editor that you appreciate, agree with, respect, etc. Dissent is often voiced more frequently and with more energy than support and it is important that we not let even small opportunities to support each other pass.

Not all letter writers include e-mail addresses along with their names, but when they do, and when they have expressed an opinion that is anywhere left of center, I know for a fact that they receive quite a bit of negative — even hateful and personally attacking — e-mail from those who don't agree.

Every time I have sent one of these thank you's, the author of the editorial has informed me that my positive, supportive response is very much the minority opinion among those who have taken time to respond.

I have also received my share of hate mail in response to letters and commentaries I have written, so I know from personal experience how toxic a mailbox full of insults and accusations can feel. We can't stop the negative responses, but we do have the power to drastically alter the ratio of positive to negative. So please when you read a letter-to-the-editor (newspaper, magazine, in print, or online) that you appreciate, pause long enough to send off a quick thank you. It will help, I promise.

Oh, and by the way, thanks.

Thom Rutledge

Psychotherapist, Author, NPJC member

PEACE AND JUSTICE CAN'T WAIT ✂ **JOIN NPJC TODAY**

Become a Friend of Nashville Peace & Justice Center. Please send your membership to:
Peace & Justice Center, 1016 18th Ave. S., Nashville, TN 37212

- \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Monthly Sustainability Donor
 \$25 individual membership \$10 limited income membership
 \$50 supporting or family membership I am interested in Volunteering

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____ Email _____

Report Back from Iraq

continued from page 2 >>> Now, each of those missiles cost about 1 million dollars, so a billion dollars, one billions dollars worth of bombs, of explosives, of possibly radioactive TNT, dropped all over across that country, and let me tell you a little bit about what it was like from inside the AIFanar Hotel.

You'd hear a gut-wrenching blast and sometimes the building itself would sway, the windows would shudder, the floors would tremble, but because there were children in our midst, you could tell people were putting on poker face. Nobody wanted to frighten the children. And yet, as this wore on each day...because the bombing started to occur morning, noon, and night. It was nearby sometimes, but we also knew of marketplaces being bombed, roadways that were being bombed. When we went to the hospital and we met with people, some of them talked about just trying to run out of their homes and a wall falling down. There were certainly many, many reasons to think that there was no place in Baghdad that was safe.

I grew very close to two of the youngest people in the hotel where I stayed...aged 3 and 1 and one half: Maladh and Zainab. Zainab at age one and one half had that wide open manner and that little baby walk, and it was wonderful to be able to scoop her up. Pretty soon, her parents let us help rock her to sleep at night and play with her. Maladh at age 3 had a personality emerging, a delicate beautiful child, wide-eyed. Maladh would play a game once this intensive bombing had commenced in which it was very, very difficult to distract her. She could play it all by herself. She would just begin to swirl her arm in the air and shout out the Arabic word for airplane "Tiaras!" and she would bring her arm to her chest, flip over backward in my arms, or on the floor, or in her bed, and mimic the airplane killing her. That's how a 3 year old copes with the clear recognition that any one of these explosions could be the end of her life.

When the electricity went out completely, as it did maybe a week and a half into the war, their mom was sometimes stuck in the pitch black staircase with one child in each arm...trying to grope her way out. I would always try to come along with a flashlight at the right time, and Maladh would be very happy to see me with that flashlight because she wanted to play with it. I tried to get her to play shadow shows on the wall or tinkerbell, but Maladh wanted to use the flashlight. She first pointed at her mother saying RATATATAT! and pretended to kill her mother. Then she'd point it at me "ATATATAT!" and pretend to kill me, and again, that's how a three year old copes with the possibility that these big booming guns might kill her mother, her father, her sister, or her new big friend. And before long, Maladh and little Zainab were grinding their teeth morning, noon, and night. And their mother, looking at the girls playing war games said, "Never before did Maladh want to play this way".

The 8 year olds played a game called Risk quite often at night. Ironically, it's a board game about military dominance throughout the world. Cynthia Bannis, who was with us, was a 79 year old woman from Vernon, NY. Cynthia stayed in the bomb shelter at night, and it was pretty crowded down there so most of us didn't stay down there. Understandably, Cynthia wanted to go to bed at night. And so one evening I overheard her talking with the kids, and she said, "You know, you could always finish the game tomorrow." Little 8 year old Dima looked at her wide eyed and said, "Oh, but we might not be here tomorrow." And that's how 8 year olds cope with the possibility of their lives ending....

[Kathy Kelly, a thrice nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, spoke in Nashville on June 14 at Belmont United Methodist Church. Dave Matthews, an NPJC volunteer, recorded her speech. It is available on CD, in text on the website, and in serial format through this newsletter.]

Valentine, Fox News Attack NPJC

Thomas F. O'Connell sent a message to WZTV Fox 17 on March 24, expressing his disappointment with their 9 o'clock news report. He tuned in to see whether there would be any coverage of a large

Gene TeSelle ~ LA CASA

fire near his neighborhood. Instead, he says, "I saw an extremely slanted piece of McCarthyistic Phil Valentine propaganda cloaked as investigative journalism in a commentary on the alleged links of the Communist Party to the Nashville Peace and Justice Center."

O'Connell told the station, "While your reporters gave free rein to Phil Valentine's public disparaging of both Coordinator Matt Leber and the Center itself, the only evidence was a print-out of an extremely out of date (and unofficial) website and an address corresponding to property owned by Scarritt-Bennett, which rents to a variety of tenants."

He went on, "Perhaps most egregious was the failure of your report to include any description of the nature or purpose of the Nashville Peace and Justice Center, whose efforts include a broad range of social justice issues. The intent to portray the recent events sponsored by the NPJC as those of a bunch of protesting Commies was clear."

O'Connell says the station contacted him to say that they had been off base in not checking their facts or contacting the Center. They promised to do a more accurate story on the Peace and Justice Center and its activities.

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(A 1-minute call before 8 am costs 29 cents; caller's message is recorded for reference of public opinions)

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Calendar
 August
 July Fall 2003

- Tuesday, July 8: **Pastors for Peace Caravan to Cuba** at 2007 Linden Ave. 6:00 pm potluck, 7:00 pm presentation. Call Gene TeSelle: 615-297-2629.
- Wednesday, July 9: **Peace Coalition Meeting***
- July 9-12: **Celebration of Cultures** at Scarrit Bennet Center
- Tuesday, July 15: **Amnesty Intl Letter Writing*** 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 16: **Peace Coalition Meeting***
- Saturday, July 19: **Sandinofest**, marking the 24th anniversary of the Nicaraguan Revolution. Live music, brief political speeches, all the fresh corn-on-the-cob you can eat, apples, and lots of great food. Contact Sandy at (931) 621-3474 or jhepler@twlakes.net for directions.
- Monday, July 21: **Trial of Pam Beziat** for "criminal trespass" at Senator Frist's office. 9:15 a.m. Ben West Bldg., Courtroom 3, 100 James Robertson Parkway.
- Monday, July 21: **Issues Forum** at NPJC*. 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, July 23: **Peace Coalition Meeting***
- Saturday, July 26: **Bishop Melvin Talbert** at 11:30 a.m. Belmont United Methodist Church. United Nations Association Nashville. For reservations, contact Dorothy Doherty at 321-1200.
- Monday, July 28: **National Organization of Women***. 7:00 p.m.
- August 9-10: **Disarmament Begins at Home** Y12 Nuclear Weapons Plant, Oak Ridge TN. To get involved call Christina @ 615-321-9066.
- August 19: **Amnesty Intl Letter Writing***. 6:00 p.m.
- August 19: **Americans United for Separation of Church and State** at 7:00 p.m. Greater Nashville Unitarian Universalist Church
- September 22: **Love Your Body Day NOW** at NPJC*. 7:00 p.m.
- October 10-11: **TN NOW State Conference**. Contact tennesseerow@comcast.net or call 269-7141.
- November 22-23: **Justice for the People of the Americas** at Fort Benning, GA. Rally and non-violent civil resistance to close the School of the Americas. Call (202) 234-2440 or visit www.soaw.org

*Meeting at the NPJC. Call 615-321-9066 for directions