

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

One-Year Anniversary of War in Iraq

Letter from the Center

March 20: Peace in Iraq



Volunteer: 615-321-9066

- 1: Granny White (12th Ave S) and Kirkwood.
- 2: Bring hand instruments to the roundabout and park at Demonbreun and 16th.
- 3: Rally at Federal Building at 1:30pm. 801 Broadway.
- 4: Nashville Peace and Justice Center at 1016 18th Ave S.

- 10:30am Pray for Peace at Sevier Park.¹
- 12noon Play for Peace at Musica.²
- 1pm March for Peace to Federal Building.³
- 3-5pm Iraq and Us 365 Days Later an interactive history⁴

It's been one year and a week since we ate our first bowl of lentils and rice on Legislative Plaza together during the Faces of Collateral Damage vigil. Soon, it will be one year since we stared -- in shades of bewilderment, horror and grief -- at the cluster bombs dropping their deadly gifts on neighborhoods in Basra and Baghdad.

Christina Van Regenmorter ~ NPJC Staff

As the year has progressed, we have found many different ways to express our disagreement with our country's policies. We've held signs, held potlucks, held benefits, and held more meetings than we could stomach. We've written emails, letters to the editor (hundreds, you prolific people!), articles, and research papers. We've made up songs, made up chants, made up coalitions. We've picked up litter, picked up broken glass, picked up torn peace signs, and some of us, in moments of great pique, have picked up our radios/televisions and pulled the plug on yet another Orwellian explanation as to the Peace-causing effects of War.

Yet, despite all we've done and said and tried to stand for, at about 4 in the morning, it's hard to not fear that you're just tilting at Windmills. Every week or so, I stare at my computer and ask myself whether I'm not just another mind-blinded person on an ideological high horse, trying to change something I can't even touch.

And then I remember: I am doing this to change myself. I can't change Halliburton. I can't change George Bush. I can only intentionally work on transforming myself.

I can't say that I have much hope for any kind of kind and quick remedy to the mess greed and fear have created in this world. Yet, I have some hope for myself and my community. I know what can happen when people try to "become the change they wish to see in this world" (to paraphrase Gandhi).

This March 20, join me and millions of people from Malaysia to Rome as we affirm our choice to make peace, not war, with our neighbors -- whether they be in Sylvan Park, Casey Holmes, or Basra. Our words may not reach "the powers that be," but they will reach ourselves. And, perhaps, that will be power enough.

Recycling and the Metro Budget: an Expensive Token

Jon van der Harst ~ Recycling Advocates of Middle Tennessee (RAM)

Mayor Purcell is now proposing a ten to fifteen percent cut in Nashville's fiscal year 2005 budget, which is expected to reduce services drastically. How could the mayor have avoided this by enacting comprehensive recycling instead of the current token program? Here's a brief summary of the logic:

Environmental groups have been explaining since 1993 how remanufacturing industry development resulting from recycling what we can from Nashville's municipal solid waste should be expected to add about \$170 million every year unto our local economy and support about 4,000 new ongoing jobs¹. Data sources (mainly measurements of actual results in other states) and calculations have been shared widely.

If comprehensive recycling had been added to the agenda presented alongside Metro's last property tax increase 3 years ago (the second largest in Metro history), environmentalists felt that its added benefit would help the tax increase past despite making the amount slightly higher. The calculations were available for the using. With a return on investment of about 8 times the expense, it was certainly an efficient add on².

Three years after that opportunity was wasted, Nashville could have had a tax write that not only covered the costs of the recycling but also brought in 170 million -- or about 13% of Metro's budget -- effectively without costing Nashvillians any more than what they now pay.

....continued on page 9

Nashville Peace and Justice Center

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

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

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

Christina Van Regenmorter, Jean Lynch-Thomasen, Al Levenson, and Gene Kelly

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. Objections? Write us a letter.

Fax: 615-320-8897 P: 615-321-9066

christina@nashvillepeacejustice.org

Calendar

March April
Spring 2004

March 4: Jobs with Justice Health Care ACTION Day Noon Luncheon at PACE (international union headquarters) just off the interchange of I-24 and Harding Place. Demonstration at HCA headquarters following. Contact: danrosemergy@bellsouth.net for more information.

March 10: Why Intelligent Design is Not Science. 7pm at MTSU's Business and Aerospace Center with Dr. Massimo Pigliucci, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. Carpool: president@nashville-au.org and 646-9946

March 13: Peacemaker Training. 10 am at the NPJC. Have a responsibility in maintaining Nashville's tradition of nonviolent protests. RSVP: 615-321-9066.

March 16: Keep Tennessee's Roads Safe. Rally with the Immigrant Worker's Freedom Ride Coalition on behalf of driver's licenses for immigrants. Contact Mario Ramos with Conexion Americas at 615-329-4588 or matt@nashvillepeacejustice.org for more information.

March 19: Nashville Youth for Peace and Justice 7-8:30pm at the NPJC. Organized BY and FOR high schoolers, homeschoolers, and unschoolers, this new group will focus on community for politically and socially aware youth, social change action, and relevant issues in our lives we can work on (i.e. racism, violence, and homophobia). RSVP requested, but not required. Call Jean or Lydia at 321-9066 for more information.

March 20: The World STILL Says No to War. Contact Christina@NashvillePeaceJustice.Org to volunteer or join the coalition.

* 10:30 **Prayer Vigil and Breakfast** at Sevier Park. Hosted by the Islamic Center of Nashville.

* 12:00 **Rally** and Music at Musica (roundabout at Demonbreun and Music Circle).

* 3:00pm **365 days Later: an Interactive History Lesson** at Nashville Peace and Justice Center.

* 7:00pm **Criminal Justice and Prison Reform** at 1st UU church with Janet Wolf. Call 383-5670.

March 21-22: Wheels of Justice Tour. Voices in the Wilderness comes to town on the Peace Bus.

March 26-27: Compass II Conference: The Campaign for Tennessee's Future Join the Tennessee Alliance for Progress at the Vanderbilt Marriot Hotel. RSVP: info@tennesseeallianceforprogress.org or call TAP at 226-8070.

March 28: One Nation Under Whose God? Religion and Politics in 2004 1:30pm at Hirambee Aud, Scarritt-Bennett Ctr. Rev. Barry Lynn, Executive Director of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State. For more information contact barry@americanunited.org and 646-9946.

March 27-30: Spring Mobilization and Lobby Days to Close the SOA. H.R. 1258, the bill to close the SOA/WHISC, will be coming up for a vote in the early summer. Since the critical mass of support is growing in the House, every representative counts. The weekend will include lobby skills training, speakers, teach-ins, fun-filled social events, and other actions. Contact: christina@nashvillepeacejustice.org or 321-9066.

April 3: War and Taxes: a Clinic on Resistance. 1-5pm at TBA, sponsored by Peace Coalition. History, How-to, Consequences, and literature available. Call 322-9523 for location or other questions.

April 17: Earth Day. Centennial Park. Join the NPJC as we educate with strawbale and other sustainable building supplies. Contact info@nashvillepeacejustice.org or 321-9066 to join the working group.

April 25: March for Women's Lives in DC. Scholarships. Contact TN NOW at cynthianashnow@aol.com or 321-9066.

May 28-30: Activist Summit Peace Roots Alliance hosts international, national, and local activists in Summertown Tennessee for a weekend of workshops, strategy, and community building. Contact Judy Meeker for more information: ahimsaimu@aol.com.

Weekly Activism

Sundays: Food not Bombs 1:30-3:00pm at Legislative Plaza (between from Capitol and Sheraton, at 6th and Union). Contact beckyr@riseup.net for more information.

Wednesdays: Peace Coalition 6-7:30pm at NPJC*. Join the 2 year old NPJC Peace Coalition as they plan protests and educational events.

Thursdays: Women in Black 12:00-1:00pm on Broadway between 12th and 11th. Silently Stand in Black: to Mourn, to Remember, to be a Presence for Peace.

Bi-Weekly Activism

School of the America's Watch Next Meeting on Tuesday, March 9 at 7:00pm at the NPJC. This group focuses on US-Latin America foreign policy and the secular support of Nashville prisoner of conscience, Don Beisswenger. Newcomers welcome. Contact ajax@ajax.org or 321-9066 with questions.

Fair Trade Nashville Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 2 at 7:00pm. Bring your corporate global understanding to creative, nonviolent, coalition-building action. Contact Christina at 321-9066.

* NPJC offices and board room are at 1016 18th Avenue S. / Nashville, TN. 37212. Call 615-321-9066 for directions.

www.nashvillepeacejustice.org

Getting a Grip on the Truth: Why the FTAA Matters

excerpts from The Politics of Trade panel 2: Feb 8, NPJC

Chris Lugo ~ Independent Media Center

Jim Jontz, president emeritus, American for Democratic Action

The new trade agenda that is being negotiated is an effort to expand coverage of trade agreements into the rest of the economy.... [Services] literally means everything else: education, health care, construction, transportation, electricity .

1) Decisions made by your city councils and by congress could become a subject of international trade if corporations get these rights. These will be treated as trade disputes decided by three lawyers sitting around a table.

2) These trade deals will give new rights to corporations by giving them the means to challenge safeguards and regulations there to protect workers and the environment. For instance a living wage regulation would be subject to challenge, also in danger would be safety rules, licensure and certification, decisions about where to mine or drill or log or where to put your toxic waste.

3) These agreements will give corporations new rights in the creation of short term worker visa programs that allow corporations to transport workers across boundaries for a certain time to work in a certain area for a certain wage. The issue is what kind of protections are workers going to have in the United States when this happens? What is the potential for abuse?

The services agenda... is about power...our power as trade unionists, our power to elected officials, our power as citizens. It is about taking our power away from us because we win. Sometimes we win. They are afraid of this....

Rosemary Mincy, PhD, member of TIRN

The FTAA is NAFTA on steroids.... Increasing worker rights and economic justice is tied with social justice and economic justice....

My closest association with the garment industry extends to my association with my mother and the plant she worked in. My mother went to work on June 8, 1959 for \$1 an hour. [After the plant was bought by an out-of-state company and moved offshore 30 years later,] she was earning \$7 an hour. After 30 years..., my mother's severance pay was \$80 dollars. There is nothing to romanticize about cotton mill work, but still community fabric and a sense of personal identity are being eroded by these closings.

AJ Starling, TN AFL-CIO Legislation Director

If President Bush is still in this office in another four years, I am not sure what we will be doing. In my previous experience, I have seen a lot of plants go. Levi-Strauss left; that was devastating to Knoxville. We lost over 7,000 jobs in that plant. We have so many lost jobs in Middle Tennessee. I have seen plants close and give maximums of 200 dollars in severance pay. When we ask companies, "Why are you leaving?" they just say, "We want to make more money."

How many of you have seen a knitting factory? If you could see the repetitive stress injuries of the workers you would see they work constantly. They are proud of what they do but they have lost

their jobs just because of greed. This is unacceptable in these times.

The reason NAFTA passed is that we did not have folks accountable. If we don't exercise our rights and go to the ballot boxes, we will just get the same thing and even worse.

Becky Renfroe, Food Not Bombs

The FTAA...affects every facet of the lives of the people in this hemisphere [water to property ownership to job security to healthcare]. These decisions, affecting 800 million people, are being made by un-elected trade ministers in secret meetings. We have to pay attention to this.

...We have been talking about US Farm Subsidies and how that affects markets. One clear example...is corn in Mexico. Until 1994, almost all the corn in Mexico was produced there by small farmers... When the market opened [and US tax-dollar subsidized agribusiness was allowed to dump corn in Mexico],

15 million farmers saw a sharp decrease in wages, and over one million workers lost their land. Why? The US exports corn to Mexico that is sold for less than the cost of production. And, it's not even making things cheaper. The price of tortillas has gone up in Mexico.

NAFTA claimed it would create millions of new jobs. Only 500,000 new jobs were created in Mexico (which is about the same number as was lost in the US), and now 250,000 of those jobs have moved (some to China). Those workers have lost their jobs. Again....

We are the market. We support this by buying the goods. When we buy things from these companies, that is the greatest statement of acceptance we are making about these policies."
~ Becky Renfrow

We are the market. We support this by buying the goods. If we buy things from these companies, then that is the greatest statement of acceptance we are making about these policies.

David Orr, Sierra Club, TIRN Board

Make no mistake. This is a power struggle going on. It is a global power struggle between the rights of a few corporate interests and all the rest of us. We are not just talking about us; we are talking about the people of the world.

Free Trade didn't just happen. It was the result of a plan.... Free Trade is being pushed by the new conservative movement that believes we should deregulate. We should take away the environmental regulations, the workers regulations -- to look for ways to make it more and more difficult to pass laws that protect these rights and make the rights on the books unenforceable.

...We need to look at what is happening right here at home. We have a Walmart being built right here. Walmart is the largest employer in the US and the most anti-union in the United States. They have perfected the art of union busting. Here in Tennessee, every Walmart store that has been built has been built on top of wetlands.

Why is Walmart so big? Because they are taking advantage of the whole Free Trade cycle. Before NAFTA, Walmart advertised selling products made only in the US. Since NAFTA, they have encouraged [sometimes required] outsourcing of jobs. Now, Walmart is an engine which helps drive the Free Trade movement in this country.

On Fire for 15 Years

NPJC's BURNT reaches a milestone

Angels of Deathly Information. BURNT activists Carl Evertson, Jon van der Harst, and Howard Switzer (who are all still involved with the NPJC), bring the grim reaper to Thermal in 1992. Photo by Al Levenson.



With Sherry Sloan and Jon Van der Harst following the ash trail, BURNT raised its numbers in 1994, bringing more momentum behind the incinerator's closing. Photo by Al Levenson.

On a gray 1998 Sunday afternoon in December, twenty-five citizens gathered at Vanderbilt's Center for Health Services to stop the \$300 million expansion of the downtown incinerator. Fifteen years later, the incinerator is gone, but the coalition of recycling and anti-pollution activists, BURNT (Bring Urban Recycling to Nashville Today), remains.

BURNT has an office at the NPJC and is a member of the social change funding group, Community Shares. A coalition group, BURNT works with neighborhoods and businesses with environmental problems. Over the years, its developed experience with Metro government, including the Council, Health Board, Public Works, and Water Department, as well as similar State agencies and occasional lawsuits, BURNT stops polluters with creativity and dogged pursuit.

A big, clean air victory came in the mid 90's when BURNT worked with downtown restaurants and neighborhoods in East and North Nashville and Germantown to clean up the notorious downtown rendering plant. The plant processed restaurant grease into valuable ingredients for pharmaceuticals and cosmetics, but regularly covered downtown and the Metro Center with stomach wrenching odors. "No one wanted to take on this lucrative business owned by an old line family. BURNT decided, well, why not follow the law," said president Bruce Wood.

Following 18 months of Health Board hearings, the family which owned the plant made the needed changes to operate cleanly. Now, the plant has changed into a valuable real estate development in Germantown. "We worked through the system, nobody was angry, and the business owner is better off," said Wood.

BURNT activists haven't been afraid to take unconventional and sometimes controversial routes to get their point across.

"In 1989, the Thermal plant wanted a variance on the carbon monoxide emission standard to expand its downtown incinerator," said Jon van der Harst. Jon worked with BURNT from 1989-1992 and saw that many of the affected people in the area were low-income African-Americans, but no one was talking about it. "I went to the Metro Health Board with my face painted black. After I spoke to the board and the audience, many people decided to speak up that hadn't before, the board would not second the motion for the expansion, and the proposal didn't pass."

BURNT recently received a Metro Council Resolution (No. RS 2003-90), sponsored by At Large Councilman Buck Dozier, proclaiming BURNT's 15th Anniversary. The council said, "the environmental work of BURNT has stimulated value of commercial real estate in downtown Nashville, the river front, Metro

Center, and Cockrill Bend."

BURNT has closed three polluters: The Rendering Plant, a liquid hazardous waste processor in Cockrill Bend called Laidlaw-OSCD, and the incinerator. Other citizens neighborhood groups, the Health Board, the Health Department, Metro Council, businesses, and especially Mayor Purcell on the incinerator, provided crucial support.

"I got involved with BURNT because that group was willing to do everything that needed to be done, including pushing effective methods of recycling and opposing both incineration and landfilling in a serious way," said van der Harst. Now with Recycling Advocates of Middle Tennessee, van der Harst does a lot of coalition work with BURNT.

Long time BURNT officer Sherry Force puts BURNT theory into practice with a solid waste program at Granberry Elementary School. During the week, they compost all of their 900 students' food waste from breakfast and lunch, and they host a Saturday recycling drop-off program. Sherry Force is an environmental model for generations of Granberry students and families. Her programs have won many competitive awards from the State of Tennessee and other agencies.

BURNT also actively works against unsafe spraying of pesticides to kill mosquitoes carrying the West Nile Virus. Members Eleanor Synder and Rachel Sumner have been instrumental in forming the grassroots group No Spray Nashville. "Spraying kills beneficial insects, creates resistant mosquito, risks our environment and health, and is not as effective as other mosquito control methods," said Rachel Sumner. "The risk benefits ratio does not support the so called 'West Nile Virus Spraying.'" You can complain and opt-out of spraying by calling 615-340-5653.

BURNT is also working with the Sylvan Heights and Normandy Circle Neighborhood Associations to force the relocation of North American Galvanizing, a heavy industry which is not compatible with the neighborhoods.

RC Bartlett, now a BURNT Board member and a board member of Sylvan Heights Neighborhood Association, said, "plenty of folks in this part of town are very grateful for BURNT. The decision from the Judge has not been released, but our people testified, they were heard, and we believe BURNT will not quit until this is solved."

"BURNT supports healthy environmental choices for Nashville citizens," said Sumner. If you want to join BURNT in any way possible (from its coalition work to education to office help), give Bruce Wood a call at 615-244-1188.

Checking your rights at the Airport

Diane Paul ~ Nashville

It was the TSA screener's yelling at me that caused the police to arrive. When I asked in a normal tone of voice a question about my jacket, the screener yelled, "Do you want me to call the police over here?" I did raise my voice then, not about the jacket, but about being threatened with the police for asking a question.

When one of the officers said, "If you say one more word, you will be placed under arrest," I was astonished, and asked: "Under which criminal code and statute? You can't arrest someone for speaking!"

The other officer said, "That's it, you're not flying." Then, I heard the police and TSA agree to file a Federal Security report on me. I demanded to know what the report would say and was told it would say I refused to remove my jacket. Not true. When I objected, handcuffs were slapped on me.

Despite repeated requests to call a lawyer, I was not allowed to make a call. Mr. Beecroft of the TSA has behaved very professionally toward me, but his office will not tell me if a report was filed. I have filed a FOIA out of concern that a false report indicating I violated a security procedure may affect my ability to fly and work.

By the way, The Tennessean reported not long ago that another passenger (an American-Muslim) was also threatened with arrest for asking questions at the Nashville airport. He was not allowed to fly but wasn't arrested.

I was arrested and allowed to fly. He is now serving in Iraq with the US government, risking his life to promote human rights and democracy. I think he would agree with my view that in the United States of American you shouldn't have to check your constitutional rights when you check your bags.



Lynn Robinson, chair of the NPJC Board, speaks at the morning gathering before the annual MLK march at Bethel AME. Photo by Al Levenson.

TFT Imagines: Taxing Profit, not Food Reforming Tennessee's Tax System one Workshop at a Time

Tax reform remains one of the most vital yet least understood issue in Tennessee. Tennesseans for Fair Taxation (TFT) is on a mission to change that. Our Grassroots Educators use popular education techniques and 30-minute interactive workshops to breakdown the complex subject.

Tennessee taxes baby food but not cattle feed. Baby, that's a crying shame! The way we tax is unfair and inadequate, and we need to know that. Tennesseans for Fair Taxation (TFT)'s low-tech, high-energy workshops are coming across the state in 2004, getting the facts out about why we need to improve our state's current tax system.

Our workshops get audience members involved in uncovering facts, drawing conclusions, and exploring solutions. The subject of taxes, with terms like elasticity and regressivity, can be daunting. Yet, when given the chance, Tennesseans are more than capable of understanding our current tax structure and why changing it will benefit all of us.

What does tax reform mean as advocated by Tennesseans for Fair Taxation (TFT)? What do we mean by equity, efficiency, and adequacy? Who will benefit from tax reform? Why is it important for the stability and future of Tennessee? TFT seeks to help citizens understand and draw their own conclusions to these and other questions through use of interactive tax reform workshops.

Brief descriptions of TFT's three tax reform workshops:

1. Family Budget - Deals with fairness and equity issues by examining how the sales tax effects families at various income levels differently. Participants develop their own

family budget and use pie charts to see how sales tax is neither as fair as it may sound nor paid equally among all income levels.

2. The Shopkeeper - Deals with fiscal responsibility and shows why the sales tax no longer works in our 21st century economy. It examines how tax reform is good for Tennessee's businesses and revenues. Participants "shop" via traditional retail outlet and other methods, learning how consumers can avoid the paying the sales tax, thus, causing holes in our tax base and hurting traditional business.
3. Tax Flash and Marathon - Deals with fairness and equity by having audience participants decide what items in budgets of various incomes are subject to sales taxation and then seeing for themselves why our system is neither fair nor equitable. They then help to make a "human graph" to demonstrate the inequity of the current system and how it would be more equal with tax reform.

All workshops end with an explanation of TFT's solution to our broken tax system, Q&A and call to action about what people can do.

Schedule a workshop for your group!
Contact Susan McKay: (615) 227-7584
Susan@YourTax.org

Nashville Peace and Justice Center



building a Culture of Peace, localizing Global Justice, and Understanding Oppression through Reflection • Education • Action

Who We Are

Clearing House

NPJC is a place where individuals and organizations connect with each other, learn who is working on what and form collaborations. It is a place where students, grassroots leaders, parents, homeless people, faith communities, and citizens concerned about many different issues can meet, strategize, educate each other, and work together.

Coalition for Social Justice Organizations and Chapters

As a coalition, NPJC is an organizing body composed of but separate from its organizational members. NPJC is organized to support its organizational members in their goals to achieve specific ends within the realm of peace and justice. We currently:

- **Provide Office & Meeting Space-** 4 organizations and over 400 meetings a year
- **Publicize Member Issues** through Alternatives, Website, Email, Press work, and Events
- **Support specific campaigns** through technical assistance and outreach support.
- **Channel prospective volunteers** to member organizations.

Center for Movement-Based Organizing

Movement-based Organizing has become the heart and soul of NPJC. NPJC supports and organizes events and activities that allow people, organizations and movements to merge. We offer opportunities to link struggles across the globe with those of Middle Tennessee.

We organize teach-ins, demonstrations, vigils and other forms of public expression and education. Examples of Movement-Based Organizing include participation in the global movement to Stop the War in Iraq, the Immigrant Worker's Freedom Ride, the Poor People's March, and the Immokalee Workers campaign.

Bringing together the gifts offered from individuals of all walks of life has allowed NPJC to organize events with dance, music, street theater, mass food distribution, and speakers from all over Middle Tennessee.

Movement-based organizing is a mechanism for allowing anyone to lead as they are called and for building a growing base of community activists and organizers.

Where We Are Headed

A Clearing House, Coalition, Center for Movement based Organizing and:

Regional Social Justice Training and Education Center

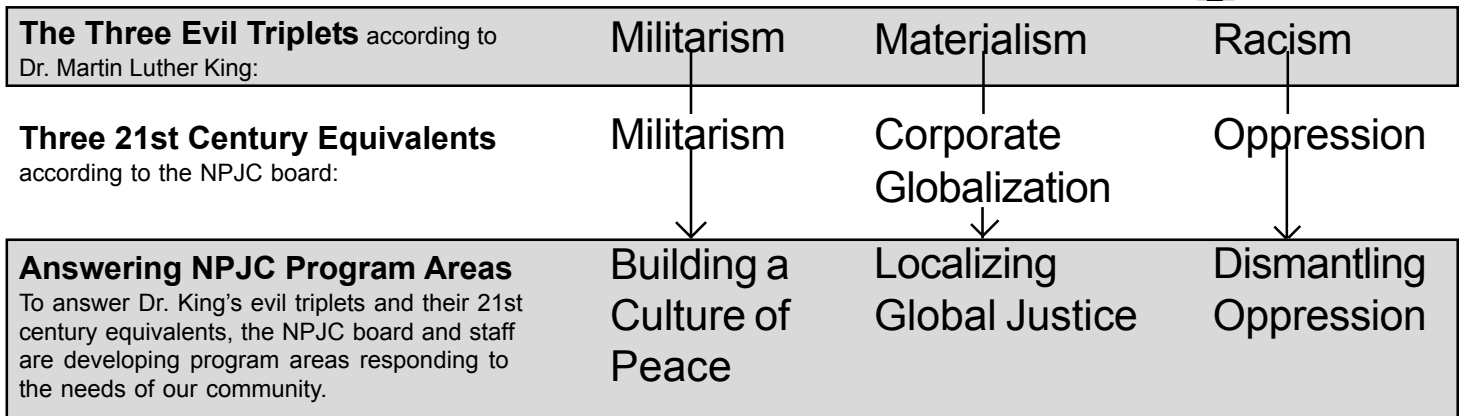
The primary role of the new NPJC Director of Education will be to design, coordinate and implement comprehensive trainings and workshops for activists and organizers within NPJC Organizational Membership and the Middle Tennessee area. These trainings will include comprehensive series on **How to be an Effective Organizer: media training, membership base, strategy, etc;** non-violence trainings, dismantling oppressions and other trainings as determined by NPJC organizational members. The purpose of the Regional Training and Education Center is to deepen the base of skilled activists and organizers in Middle Tennessee.

Developing Regional, National and Global Network:

- Provide Middle Tennessee network of prospective and experienced activists with access to life changing experiences.
- Developing connections with experiential learning programs across the region, country and globe such as Global Exchange, Southern Empowerment Project, Highlander Center, Witness for Peace, etc.. Entails network development, and giving of presentations.
- 1-on-1 coaching within Nashville Community.

A Growing Vision

In December, 2003, the NPJC Staff and Board developed and approved a vision for the next several years. This vision included developing the Center with three primary program areas: Building a Culture of Peace, Localizing Global Justice and Dismantling Oppression. These three areas were developed as a result of examining the connection between the areas that NPJC tended to focus in and the studies of Dr. Kings' works, in particular, his work that focused on the "three evil triplets" of society.



What does this have to do with me?

Everything. We need your vision, your feet, your passion, your voice, your hands, your criticism, and, yes, your financial help in order to make any part of this happen. This is not a complete vision -- just a conglomeration of some of the dreams, requests, and ideas that have come to the NPJC Board and staff over the last year. If there is something missing, or if you see something that you want to help make happen, please tell us.

Building a Culture of Peace through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nonviolence Education. • Coordinating Peace Education programs. I.E. bringing AFSC's <i>Help Increase the Peace</i> (for middle school and high school students) and the <i>Alternatives to Violence Project</i> (for prison inmates) to communities in Nashville and Middle Tennessee. • Simplicity Project: creating a Peace Garden movement, clothes swaps, coordinating community supported agriculture, and sustaining Simplicity Circles. • Peace Coalition activities (teach-ins, war protests, vigils, draft resistance counseling) 	Localizing Global Justice by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Grassroots Organizers from our member organizations and the middle TN social justice movement. • Supporting Grassroots Organizations and activists through press work, community-building, and coalition work. • Educating on Global Injustice. Training and equipping people on popular education techniques to teach workshops on trade, economics, and human rights. • Supporting the Global Justice movement through events, local versions of national and international campaigns, and through providing and coordinating hospitality.
Dismantling Oppression by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-oppression, anti-bias training on the impact of overt, covert, institutionalized, and internalized racism, sexism, classism, agism, and homophobia. • Ally organizing. • Giving support and leadership in Civil and Human Rights campaigns. 	

Democracy in Action: NPJC members Speak Out

While the decisions of our leaders may belie the fact, this is still a democracy. And, one of the privileges of being a citizen in this democracy is that, though your representative may never represent you, he/she still has to: 1) write you back when you write him/her and 2) have someone show up at an appointment when you make an appointment. So, what if your pockets aren't as deep as the Hospital Corporations of America or the National Pork Producers Council? Do your bit for democracy...and tell us about it.

Visiting 'Lamar:' a trip to Senator Alexander's West End office

February 18, 2004 found NPJC members Jennifer Cartwright, Benjamin Kite, Jeanne Rewa, and Jennifer Tlumak in Senator Lamar Alexander's Nashville office, speaking via conference call to Matt Sonnesyn, one of the Senator's Legislative Assistants in Washington, D.C.

We went to convey our serious reservations and concerns about the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). This plan, which is being negotiated between the United States and Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and El Salvador, would liberalize trade among these countries and give unprecedented rights to corporations. CAFTA is beset by problems, foreshadowed by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA): job losses in Tennessee, decreased economic and political sovereignty, and a race towards the lowest environmental, labor, and human rights standards.

The Administration has been quietly negotiating CAFTA with the five other countries party to the agreement for more than a year. The text of the plan is not public, nor is there a good channel for ordinary citizens to influence negotiations. Many Congresspeople are woefully uninformed about CAFTA, which has potential to greatly impact the lives of Tennesseans, Americans, and ultimately, people throughout the region and world. Senator Alexander sits on the International Economic Policy, Export and Trade Promotion Subcommittee of the Foreign Relations Committee, so he has the potential to powerfully impact the debate on CAFTA, which may come before the Congress as early as spring of this year.

While we had hoped to get concrete feedback about the Senator's position on the agreement, the bulk of the "conversation" we had with Lamar's staffer, Mr. Sonnesyn, was an education session for him on the very real downfalls of another ill-conceived free trade agreement. Not being able to see Mr. Sonnesyn, I imagined him playing tic-tac-toe on his computer while we spoke our piece. He interrupted periodically to correct someone's use of, "Lamar" to "the Senator," or to dismiss our economic analysis of CAFTA's weaknesses by indicating his thorough familiarity with "purchasing power parity," as he put it.

Needless to say, we were unimpressed by the reception we got

from the Washington office. Mr. Sonnesyn provided no response to a document including seven specific questions about CAFTA he had received weeks before. He claimed that it was too early to discuss the Senator's position and that it would be most helpful if we simply shared our concerns so that they could be integrated into the Senator's decision-making process later on.

Although disappointed by the lack of feedback from the Senator's office, the NPJC group did an excellent job of passionately articulating its case against CAFTA. Ms. Cartwright eloquently stated the connection between Central Americans' and Tennesseans' welfare. Not only is there a connection among union workers who lose jobs or gain employment in unsafe, badly regulated conditions, but as members of the human race, we are mutually concerned for others' welfare. Ms. Cartwright also dissected the circular logic of the Senator's letter regarding CAFTA. It reads, "By encouraging free trade we can reduce costs for companies, which in turn helps to protect and create jobs in Tennessee." Ms. Cartwright pointed out that the companies' cost reductions are primarily from cutting labor costs – either through lay offs or lower wages. The Senator's logic rings hollow for the more than 90,000 Tennesseans who lost their jobs as a result of NAFTA between 1994 and 2000. (Economic Policy Institute fact sheet)

Ms. Tlumak raised concerns about the environmental costs of CAFTA, which could allow corporations to sue national governments, forcing countries to accept hazardous waste projects and other environmental degradation in the guise of free trade.

Ms. Rewa discussed the likelihood that CAFTA would undercut labor protections in Central America, exacerbating union busting and degrading already substandard working conditions. As Ms. Rewa puts it, "Not one Central American country included in the proposed CAFTA comes close to meeting a minimum threshold of respect for the UN International Labor Organization's core labor standards: freedom of association, the right to organize and bargain collectively, and freedom from child labor, forced labor, and discrimination." CAFTA's weak language will not help.

Mr. Kite spoke sincerely about his desire for directed, relevant feedback from the Senator. Frustrated in the past by hollow form letters, many of which fail to address his concerns, Mr. Kite expressed his hope that the day's meeting, which was followed by further written correspondence, would be taken into real consideration by the Senator's office.

The NPJC group helped educate Senator Alexander's staff about the important issues surrounding the Central American Free Trade Agreement. If you are seeking a little self-education, visit Citizen's Trade Campaign <<http://www.citizenstrade.org/cafta.php>>, Stop CAFTA <<http://www.stopcafta.org/>>, Public Citizen <<http://www.citizen.org/trade/cafta/>>, and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <<http://www.ceip.org/>>, among other sources. Additionally, all are welcome to join the Peace and Justice Center's Fair Trade Group. This forum is an excellent way to learn about these issues, express your ideas, and take action!

~ Jennifer Tlumak, Fair Trade Nashville

**Make a meeting with your Senator or Representative:
Senator Bill Frist: 615-352-9411
Senator Lamar Alexander: 615-736-5129
Representative Jim Cooper: 615-736-5296**

**If you want moral support, some good background info,
or some compadres, call or email the NPJC.**

Calling St. Valentine

Murders and Mourning in Ciudad Juarez

Beth Lewis ~ Women in Black

Over Valentine's weekend I was privileged to join over 7,000 people in a tribute to the murdered women and girls of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Since 1993 more than 320 women have been murdered in Ciudad Juarez, sister city of El Paso, Texas. Of these deaths 130 have been sexual-torture killings of young women ages 12-19. Four hundred and fifty more women are missing and the crimes have spread to Chihuahua City. Families of the victims and local activists have been unsuccessful until this year in drawing media attention to the murders as well as to the bogus investigations surrounding them.

The weekend-long gathering was comprised of over seventy groups, including Amnesty International, Women in Black, Code Pink, Amigos de las Mujeres de Juarez, unions, and student groups. Congresswomen Hilda Solice of California and Jan Schachowski of Illinois were there. Several celebrities turned out as well, including Jane Fonda and Sally Field who participated in the march and acted in the play "Vagina Monologue." Eve Ensler, author of the play and sponsor of a yearly traveling campaign known as "V-Day" which highlights violence against women proclaimed,

"We are about making sure Juarez becomes the capital of Non-violence towards women."

Some comments and the response of the conservative Mexican press reflected embarrassment over what was conceived as bad publicity and illegal interference.

"We must act collectively and join our international efforts as one community in seeking justice and creating social change to stop violence against women," wrote Amigos de las Mujeres. For more information they may be contacted at amigosdemujeres@yahoo.com.

Recycling and the Metro Budget (cont)

.....continued from page 1

On top of that, if the environmentalist's recommendations of using more convenient wet/dry techniques instead of the current hodge-podge that requires time consuming drop offs for so many items, the benefits would actually be even greater. To be conservative, the 170 million dollars does not include these time savings. E.g. even at only a minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour, if the average Nashvillian saved just 2 minutes per week, that would be worth over 5 million dollars per year.

For more information: contact RAM at 615-227-3499.

To get involved in BURNT: email burnt-tn@mindspring.com.

¹ "Value Added by Recycling Industries in Massachusetts" research by Robin F. Ingenthron, director of Recycling. Division of Solid Waste Management and Willa Small Kuh, director, Massachusetts department of Environmental Protection. July, 1992. Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, Dept of Environmental Protection. Boston, MA.

² Telephone conversation with Richard Cave of R. Cave and Associates Engineering Limited, Oakville, Ontario, Canada. Consultant to city of Guelph, Ontario. Re: costs per ton of solid waste.

A Message from the Resistance

Benjamin Kite ~ Fair Trade Nashville

I have been given a message to deliver
to Proctor and Gamble
to Pepsi Cola and Exxon
to United Fruit and Nike
I speak for those
in the Resistance:
you win.
we give up.

They recruited me from among the hippies
and freaks
and free-thinkers
and communists
at a bonfire
drinking pear cider
smoking a joint
with a pinko

We agreed that liberty was at stake
all over the world
and that's where
they hooked me
"it's a coin
not a die."
they said
"you fight
or you don't"

We spent years struggling against you
you poisoned
you murdered
you lied
your wicked machine
kept the unfed unfed
kept the poor poor
and made the rest of us
need you

We went through your prison blocks in the night
we opened cell after cell
broke chain after chain
fed mouth after mouth
but returned alone
every night

No one wanted
to be free
in lieu of
TV

One Nation Under...Vishnu?

The Politics of Naming "God" in the United States

Charles Sumner ~ Americans United

Recent polls show that the vast majority of Americans do not object to the inclusion of the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Most would probably object if the phrase were "under Vishnu" or "under Allah" or "under no god." Why do separationists protest "under God"?

Why do many religious leaders join in this protest?

Our schools are the places where the Pledge of Allegiance is said most often. In this land where we have the right to any beliefs it is not proper that we indoctrinate children from kindergarten age with a civil religion. One does not have to hold the beliefs of the majority to be a patriotic citizen. Speaking about the Memorial and Remonstrance against Religious Assessments, Thomas Jefferson said that religious liberty belongs to "the Jew and the Gentile, the Christian and the Mohammedan, the Hindoo and Infidel of every denomination."

There have always been religious extremists who have advocated that our government should acknowledge God and the lordship of Jesus Christ. They villified Jefferson for his liberal views. During times of national crisis they have had some limited success in gaining ground. That is how "In God We Trust" got on our money during the Civil War and how "under God" got in the Pledge during the struggle with atheistic Communism.

There are active groups now which advocate a theocratic government.

People would do well to remember the Golden Rule. It is a concept of many religions. If you were an atheist, humanist, Ethical Culturist, Unitarian, Hindu, would you want your child to be indoctrinated by teachers in someone else's religion from a tender age? Do unto others as you would have done unto you. Government for ALL the people is required to be neutral toward religion.

You can gain a deeper understanding of the philosophy involved by attending the talk on March 28 (see the calendar on page 2) by the Rev. Barry Lynn, Executive Director of our Americans United for Separation of Church and State. Lynn is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and is also an attorney. The Supreme Court has on its docket for the week of March 24 arguments in the Newdow case on appeal from the 9th Circuit. Lynn will bring to Nashville his impressions of how the Court treated those on both sides and his predictions on the outcome. See the calendar for details.

For more information, check it out: Engle v. Vitale, 370 U.S. 421 (1962). It contains some excellent reasoning based on the history of establishments of religion on this continent and in Europe. Separation of church and state helps guarantee the equal rights of all citizens. It also keeps churches free to act as consciences for government. That is why it is advocated by

religious leaders of many different denominations.

TCASK receives Matching Grant

Pledges through April 30

Randy Tatal ~ TCASK

A privately advised donor fund awarded a \$25,000 matching grant to the Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing (TCASK) in mid-November. The coalition, has until April 30, 2004 to raise the matching funds necessary to receive the full \$25,000 award. All donations or pledges made to TCASK during this time will be matched dollar for dollar.

"The grant comes to Tennessee in recognition of its national strategic importance in the death penalty abolition movement and the tremendous success of TCASK and its partners in its public education projects," said Randy Tatal, executive director of the Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing. "TCASK and its volunteer base have worked very hard with scarce resources to broaden the public discourse on the systemic failures of our death penalty system."

"The grant money awarded to TCASK will help fund its grassroots education work," said Tatal. "With more than 100 death row exonerations in the United States, and 2 or more exonerations in the works in Tennessee, it is no longer necessary for politicians to be 'for the death penalty' to demonstrate that they are tough on crime. We believe that the correct policy frame is "being smart on crime prevention." Teaching constituents that the death penalty is not a deterrent, stresses local government budgets, and can result in fewer law enforcement officers on the street are among the group's objectives.

TCASK is currently working with the coalition organization Tennesseans for a Moratorium on Executions (TME). TME's goal is a 3-year "time-out" on executions during which a thorough and independent study of the administration of Tennessee's death penalty system is conducted. A bi-partisan panel to conduct that study, like the one released in Illinois last year, would consist of members who both oppose and support capital punishment as a public policy tool.

You can pledge on-line at www.tcask.org or call the state office at 615-329-0048. Help TCASK help you - double your contribution today!

Tired of Paying for War?

**NOT
IN OUR NAME
AND WITH
OUR MONEY**



Nashville War Tax Clinic
1-5pm
Saturday, April 3

- * Thoreau to 2004: A history of war tax refusal.
 - * How To: workshops for waged and self-employed.
 - * Truth and Consequences: What may happen to you.
- ~simple supper at 5 ~

Featuring: St. Louis activist and father, Bill Ramsey, and 44 year War Tax resistance veteran, Karl Meyer.

Location TBA (call 322-9523).

In Loving Memory

**Adora Dupree
January 8, 2004**

**Patsy Doherty
January 31, 2004**

Two More for Peace and Justice

As of the January board meeting, two new organizational members grace our letterhead: the **Homeless Power Project** and **Peace Roots Alliance**.

The Homeless Power Project is a group of Nashville homeless and formerly homeless working to confront the root causes of homelessness and develop concrete solutions within the Nashville community.

Based in Summertown, TN, Peace Roots Alliance works on peace, justice, and sustainability issues. Their projects include More Than Warmth (a quilt project), the Signs of Peace campaign, and conscientious objector registration project. Check out their website: www.peaceroots.org



Braving the frigid January morning, new NPJC member Peace Roots Alliance leads the Martin Luther King March down Jefferson Street. The NPJC helped organize a leg of the annual march. Photo by Al Levenson.

Cumberland Gathering

The Cumberland Greens Bioregional Council held its annual Winter Gathering the last weekend of January. We played music, danced, held informative workshops and discussions and collective pot-luck feasts, went to a Sunday morning meditation, and had a short business meeting.

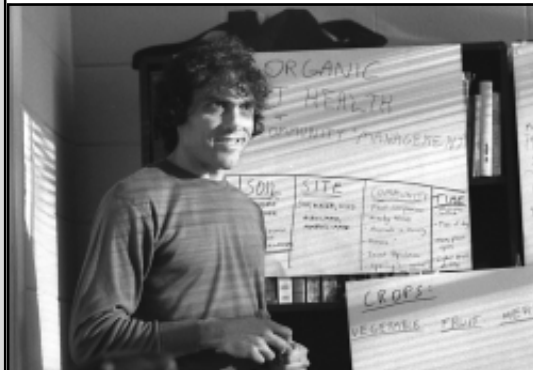
During the business meeting, we agreed to continue our membership in the Nashville Peace and Justice Center and to begin using the internet more.

Also during the meeting, we discovered that we actually had money in our bank account. Uneasy with this situation, we quickly decided to give most of it away. Hence, we will be making monetary contributions to the Swan Trust to further their efforts to purchase and conserve TN forestland and to Kids To The Country. Since we also believe strongly in direct (non-monetary) assistance and barter, we will be donating our construction expertise and energy to Radio Free Nashville in its efforts to get off the ground. (And on the air)!

Before we closed our meeting (lunch was ready), we made the exciting decision to have a Summer and Fall gathering for the first time in several years. Hosted by rural Cumberland Greens, they will be held in the countryside. We should have the dates and locations nailed down and available soon.



Drawing on her Republican heritage, Christina Van Regenmorter gives George Bush's stance on Free Trade during the Candidate's Panel portion of the Politics of Fair Trade event on February 8. Photo by Al Levenson.



Matt Belmont knows where to put the compost. Veteran organic gardener Matt Belmont leads a workshop on organic gardening for the Cumberland Greens gathering. Photo by Al Levenson

NPJC Automatic Bank Withdrawal Registration

Name: _____

Monthly Donation: \$ _____

Bank Name: _____

Branch: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip: _____

BK Transit/ABA No. (9 digit # at bottom of check):

Account Number: _____

YES! I can donate to the NPJC.

- \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Monthly Sustainability Donor
 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Annual 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 _____

Note for **donations by check**: write annual, monthly, or one-time in the "memo" line of check



1016 18th Avenue, S.
Nashville, TN 37212
tel. (615) 321-9066
www.nashvillepeacejustice.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Nashville, TN
Permit, No. 1716

Address
Service
Requested



Educate those in Power

write. | call. | visit.

President George W. Bush

1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington D.C. 20500
(202) 456-1111, FAX (202) 456-2461 president@whitehouse.gov

Citizen Comment: (202) 456-1111

(A 1-minute call before 8 am costs 29 cents)

Congressional Switchboard:

1(800) 648-3516

U.S. Senator Bill Frist

461 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-3344 senator@frist.senate.gov

U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander

302 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington DC 20510
(202) 224-4944 senator@alexander.senate.gov

U.S. Representative Jim Cooper

1536 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515 phone: 202.225.4311

Gov. Phil Bredesen

Governor's Office, Tennessee State Capitol, Nashville TN 37243-0001
(615) 741-2001 phil.bredesen@state.tn.us

TN Senator Jim Bryson

310 War Memorial Building, Nashville, TN 37243-0023
(615) 741-2495 sen.jim.bryson@legislature.state.tn.us

TN Senator Thelma Harper

2 Legislative Plaza, Nashville, TN 37243-0219
(615) 741-2453 sen.thelma.harper@legislature.state.tn.us

TN Senator Joe Haynes

5 Legislative Plaza, Nashville, TN 37243-0220
(615) 741-6679 sen.joe.haynes@legislature.state.tn.us

TN Senator Douglas Henry

11 Legislative Plaza, Nashville, TN 37243-0021
(615) 741-3291 sen.douglas.henry@legislature.state.tn.us

Some Things to ACT on

In Your City (Nashville)

* Walmart is coming to town (2 more stores to the 10 in the area). Call your councilmember to regarding Walmart's requested zoning variances.

* DeCriminalizing Homelessness. Ask Metro Police not to arrest homeless people who are eating, sitting, napping and carrying their belongings in public.

In Your State

* House Bill 421 "**Anti-Living Wage Bill**" Prohibits counties, cities and municipalities from introducing legislation that would provide its public workers with a living wage.

* Labor Law **Equal Pay Remedy for Women**: Passed in the House and waiting for the Senate. Sen. Henry opposed.

* House Bill 2499: Requires a **paper receipt** when you go to the ballot and vote. Helps prevent voter fraud.

* Bill to **Repeal Immigrant Driver License Law**. Lobby for immigrant rights and safe streets and then come to the rally on March 16.

In Your Country

* CAFTA, expanding NAFTA to Central America, should come up for a vote in April. Cooper, Alexander, and Frist are for it.

* H.R. 2625 and S. 1946: To establish an independent commission on intelligence about Iraq.

* S. 1709 - Security and Freedom Ensured Act of 2003 (SAFE Act)