

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

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EDITORIAL COLLECTIVE

Aisha Begum, Chris Lugo, Cindy Gutschke, 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. Objections? Write us a letter.

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

christina@nashvillepeacejustice.org

Report Back from Iraq, part 2

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

I think Operation Shock and Awe persuaded people all across Baghdad that there was not the slightest possibility of resisting the United States onslaught, that the United States "meant business." ...When the campaign was over, you'd think that the

Kathy Kelly ~ Voices in the Wilderness

response of Iraqis all across Iraq was one of thanksgiving and jubilation. To clarify, I don't know hardly anyone that wasn't filled with a sense of relief and release that the regime was gone. Saddam Hussein's regime had created fear. It was ruthless. It was brutal, and people were enormously, enormously tired of trying to cope with the level of fear and restriction that was their everyday life. But thanksgiving and jubilation? I, myself, can't report that.

One day after the occupation began, the word went all around Baghdad that the United States forces had chosen to dispatch 12 armored personnel carriers to protect the ministry of oil, to protect the maps and information that would govern how to get Iraq's oil pumping again. However, there had been no effort to even try and find out where the hospitals were and to protect them. So, hospitals turned into war zones. This was a very, very bitter pill for people in Iraq to swallow. On the heels of that came the destruction of their national archives, their museums and 30 of their ministries, buildings going up in smoke. One man said to me, "Perhaps the only thing we have been liberated from is the notion that the United States ever wanted to save us in the first place."

Many of you have seen the footage of Saddam Hussein's statue toppling in Firdous Square. That was one block away from where I stayed at the Al Fanar Hotel. We would have had to grow wings to be able to cross that one block. There was a full occupation right at the intersection, one block away from where the statue was, and very serious looters were 10 minutes away at the Jumoria Bridge that morning. Everyone in our neighborhood was behind locked doors and shuttered windows; I hardly think that people were going outside to check out what was happening with the occupation that just rolled into the intersection....I think [it] might have been something along the lines of a rent-a-crowd in the square.

When the statue toppled, it was a valid symbol of release, but I think the far more important city to focus on as we try to understand the emerging allegiances and identities in Iraq today is Karbala. That day in Karbala, without lights, without electricity, without being able to make phone calls, 1 million people...came together to commemorate the deaths of religious leaders who died some 14 centuries ago. 60-70% of Iraq's people submit to the religion of Islam. Of the 1 million people who came to Karbala for that celebration, there was a sizable number who would practice the form of Islam that is most akin to that of that form of Islam which currently dominates and defines Iran today [Shia Islam]. It is a much more fundamentalist theocratic state in Iran, and you can bet that Mr. Wolfowitz, and Mr. Pearl, and Mr. Cheney, and Mr. Rumsfeld did not orchestrate this war along with

"Perhaps the only thing we have been liberated from is the notion that the United States ever wanted to save us in the first place."

other war designers so that Iraq could be entrusted to people who follow a form of Islam close to Islamic fundamentalism. And so, what's going to happen in the future? What kinds of methods will the United States use to ensure that whatever governance emerges in Iraq will help secure US political and economic and military interests? The US may recycle military strong-arms or recycle the intelligence network. It's been done by the US in other countries before.

So, understandably, people are pretty nervous about free speech. I don't find people saying, "Oh now we can say whatever we want." You'll find some who will now hang a banner outside a window and say, "Ok, now I am this political party," but there is a great deal of anxiety as to who's going to have the upper hand in the future. One person who is a close friend said to me, "Maybe the only thing that's changed is that Saddam Hussein is gone"

I'd like to say something more about the looting that happened. That was certainly a huge departure from what my experiences of Iraqi people have always been. I've seen them as among the most dignified, the most erudite, certainly the most hospitable and kindly people possible. It was a very rough surprise to realize the amount and the level of destruction that could take place in Baghdad, a city beloved by so many people.....continued on page 7

Poor People's March, revisited

Several people,
having learned

Gene TeSelle ~ La Casa

that I was a participant in the Poor People's March in 1968, have asked about it. It seems almost like ancient history, yet it has amazing relevance today as the mule-drawn wagon journey from Memphis to Washington is reenacted. Here are a few recollections and reflections.

The Poor People's March grew out of the campaign for justice for sanitation workers in Memphis, which Martin Luther King, Jr., took up as his own cause. And of course it was in Memphis that he was shot, perhaps because he had gone beyond civil rights to economic issues.

After the King assassination (April 4, 1968) there was much confusion about whether the March should be held at all, as well as struggle over who would be involved in its planning. The year 1968 was a tense time generally, of course, with the Kennedy and King assassinations, demonstrations against the Vietnam War, and "civil unrest" in a number of cities, including Nashville.

We were spending the summer up in the Berkshires in Western Massachusetts, "Alice's Restaurant" territory. I had been an interim minister there during one summer, and we continued to go back for several years. The minister of the church drove down with me to New Haven, where buses had been chartered by Yale students and faculty members. William Sloane Coffin was the chaplain at Yale, so there was more than the usual motivation at Yale.

It was a half day's ride to Washington. The buses left fairly early in the morning and arrived early in the afternoon, as I recall. As the roads converged on D.C., more and more buses were evident. (It must have been a good day for the charter bus business.) By the time we were going down the major thoroughfares of Washington, it was probably a steady procession. Black people (we had just learned that term, replacing "Negroes") were waving all along the route, welcoming us to the city. Obviously it was a major event for them and they appreciated the demonstration of support.

The rally was held on the Mall on a hot afternoon. This was before the days of bottled water, but we did prepare by filling canteens with tap water. The attendance was several hundreds of thousands (there is always dispute about numbers). It was not the crowd achieved by the 1964 March on Washington, and there were no memorable speeches like King's "I Have a Dream." But it is always important to have a manifestation of mass support like this. "If two and two and fifty make a million," as the song goes, then events like this are worth attending to. It had an impact not only in Washington and in the national media but in the many localities from which participants came and to which they reported about the event.

The Poor People's March did not achieve major changes in national policy. The Democratic Party was divided over Vietnam. George Wallace waged his "third party" campaign, winning in Alabama and Mississippi and getting 10 to 12 percent in some

northern industrial states. In November Richard Nixon beat Hubert Humphrey in the presidential election. The "undoing of the Sixties" began.

And yet the news was not all bad. Many of the agendas of the Sixties were fulfilled only in the Seventies. This was when the women's movement really took hold and began getting results. The Fair Housing Act of 1968 began to be enforced, and the head of the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department said that he got no interference from the White House. The school desegregation issue was resolved by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg decision in 1971, which in turn was the basis for the first integration plan in Nashville-Davidson County. It was during the Seventies that Congress passed the Community Reinvestment Act, requiring all federally insured lending institutions to serve the credit needs of their communities, including low- and moderate neighborhoods and their residents.

More damaging changes took place during the Reagan Revolution of the Eighties, with the first major tax cuts for the rich and decreases in welfare programs as well as civil rights enforcement. The Clinton-Gore administration promoted NAFTA and the World Trade Organization, with the result that factories have

steadily moved from the low-wage South to even lower-wage areas in Latin America and Asia. The Bush II regime has once again cut taxes for the rich and set things up for abolition of inheritance taxes. As a result, economic inequalities, which were at their lowest in the late 1960s, have increased to a degree that has not been seen for a century. It's clearly time for a new Progressive Movement like the one a hundred years ago. The Poor People's March is not just an exercise in nostalgia.

But we also know from the Sixties that change is never easy. The "Great Society" legislation of the Sixties brought progress on a scale that may have surpassed the New Deal. But in signing the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Lyndon Johnson knew that he was delivering the South to the Republican Party for the next generation. Actually it has turned out to be longer than that.



Amy Wendell waits with Food Not Bombs at Coleman Park. FNB fed the marchers lunch on August 5.



Doris Delmund, a local artist, loaned her recently completed canvas on the rich and the poor to the march.

As if civil rights were not enough to divide the Democratic Party, LBJ's war in Vietnam achieved it. After being reelected as the peaceful alternative to Barry Goldwater, LBJ sent more troops and allowed them to engage in combat for the first time. LBJ and many of his advisers were reluctant to escalate; but the Pentagon wanted it. Similarly the State Department and the CIA encouraged support for military coups in Brazil and Indonesia and Greece and military intervention in the Dominican Republic. LBJ feared the political consequences of anything that looked like weakness toward Communism; State and Defense said it was imperative to project American strength; and he was enough of a Texas cowboy to resent obstruction by lesser nations abroad.

Now we have another Texas cowboy in the White House, who is even more outspoken in his contempt for other governments and his eagerness to make an example of anyone who seems to defy US hegemony in the world. There is still much to do on both domestic and foreign issues. The reenactment of the Poor People's March helps to remind us of those tasks.

Patriot ACTors

Deborah Chadwick and Dave Matthews - Peace Coalition

On a steamy July 4th, activists from the NPJC Peace Coalition Street Theatre Activists performed a skit protesting the many different areas directly affected by the Patriot Acts. People coming to Riverfront Park for the fireworks had the opportunity to watch a moving theatrical spectacle organized by NPJC volunteer Becky Renfrow and the Peace Coalition.

"I got sunburned and exhausted," said Sean Siple. "However, I appreciated being able to present my point of view in front of my fellow Nashvillians and have them consider how their security is at risk. What was really amazing was the creativity present in the troupe."

While entertaining, the issues presented within the skit were serious. They spoke about the impingements of the freedom of press, freedom of religion, and freedom of speech from various characters' point of view.

The skit began with a 'peace choir' singing 'This Land is Your Land' (Woody Guthrie), which attracted the attention of passers by to stop and listen. Then, the choir sang "For What It's Worth" (Steven Stills). When the lyrics about paranoia striking deep began, actors casually strolled out of the audience, got behind



Benjamin Franklin, aka Dave Matthews, stands up for our Founding Freedoms.



The Patriot ACTors on 2nd Ave.



Singing for Justice on the Riverfront.

Excerpted from "The Patriot ACTors"

ANNOUNCER:

Becky Renfrow ~ NPJC Volunteer

Excuse me sir, this is public space, exactly why can't we be here? We checked on the laws. We have a copy around here somewhere that says nothing about some impromptu, educational, patriotic and celebratory street theater...

OFFICIAL: Well it appears that what you are doing here is intended to influence this here civilian population by intimidation and/or coercion. And that there is Domestic Terrorism, yes, ma'am. We do not tolerate no domestic terrorism at our 4th of July celebrations.

ANNOUNCER: I'm sorry sir, but I fail to see how this is anything at all like terrorism. (Looks to the audience for back up.)

ONLOOKER # 1 (looking at flyer): Well, this PATRIOT ACT stuff is pretty scary. I do feel a little bit intimidated.

ANNOUNCER: But do you feel intimidated by us, or by these laws passed by our Government?

ONLOOKER #2: Yeah, and this couldn't possibly be domestic terrorism.

ANNOUNCER: Actually, some of the PATRIOT ACT is so vague that even non-violent protests could be construed as acts of terrorism.

the singers, and gagged them. The gags had PATRIOT ACT in red letters covering the mouths of the singers.

Then a "punk" exclaimed how unjust it was to gag these people, that they weren't terrorists, and he wasn't either. At this point, he was also muted by a gag and forced to kneel in front of the gagged singers. A singer behind him raised a sign showing what part of the act could quell local protests under the threat of 'domestic terrorism'. A religious minority member, a reporter, and a librarian were presented and then gagged. Each gagged actor kneeling in front of the choir had a cardboard tombstone placed over their neck: R.I.P. Freedom of Speech, RIP Right to Privacy, RIP Checks and Balances, etc. Finally a 'Republican' actor came up and said, "What's the big deal? We have to sacrifice some freedom for security don't we?" After he said he was not a terrorist, he was gagged with the others.

At the end, Benjamin Franklin arrived in revolutionary gear to explain the provisions of the Patriot Act. He asked the audience to think of what our founding fathers would have said. At that point, the announcer summarized the need for community involvement to reclaim our liberties and right this wrong. Then, the 'gaggers' came forward, picked up the announcer, and carried her away while she exhorted the audience to read the fliers and act. At that point, all the kneeling actors and the choir sang: "Get up, stand up, and stand up for your rights. Get up, stand up, don't give up the fight."

The OFFICIAL has been looking over on of the flyers and he find ome way in which the PACT could affect him personally, speaks up about it, (???) and is gagged and bound as well.

CHORUS reads another quote

Members of the "audience" step forward one by one, read from the flyer, announcing how exactly the PATRIOT ACT could affect him/her directly. More gaggers emerge and deal with each of those people as before. The CHORUS recites a quote after each person from the crowd, and after each person in the crowd, the chorus members are also gagged...

Last CHORUS MEMBER (alone): First they came for the Muslim Americans, and I didn't stand up because I wasn't Muslim. Then they came for the dissidents, and I didn't stand up because I wasn't a dissident, Then they came for me and there was no one left to stand up.

She is gagged.

ANNOUNCER: Well, I guess that's it everyone, there's not really a whole lot more we can do here. (All of the GAGGERS are slowly moving in on her). Can't sing a song with a silenced Chorus. Read those flyers. Educate yourselves. (She is being tied up.) Take pride in your freedoms; exercise them. If you don't, they will be taken away. (She is gagged and carried away.)

Cost of War with Iraq

(as of 4:00 pm, August 18, 2003)

Total: **\$69,382,015,088**

7,006,670 additional children could have attended Head Start.

21,242,281 children could have been provided with a year of health care.

943,967 additional school teachers could have been hired for one year.

1,257,028 additional four-year scholarships to public four-year universities could have been paid.

12,389,597 additional cars could have been converted to use natural gas.

707,977 additional affordable housing units could have been built.

www.costofwar.com

“Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed.”

President Dwight D. Eisenhower
April 16, 1953

Melissa Gordon ~ Students for Peace

I am not aligned
with this country
for we are
one nation
under surveillance
where people of color are invisible
until profiled,
and can you hear it
the cadence of a death march
outside her window
as another mother's son
is drafted to bleed
his blood for oil
but some of us don't
bleed red, white and blue
some of us are still recovering
from colonial history and poverty
while taking oaths of peace
patriotic regimes
are chasing arab shadows
on foreign shores
with trigger fingers busy
pulling lead into any enemy,
even children who have just begun
to harvest smiles, imagine saying
“alou biqu” as your home is bombed
but aren't we all
sisters of a veiled nation
seeing life through corporate filters
and the cadence of a death march goes on
in every flash of the media,
and we should be rejoicing
because walker was detained
saddam's sons are dead
and even his daughters have rallied against him
and every flash says that i should too
and the cadence of a death march is muffled
by every fucking country song
on cmt's top ten
but where were they the day
audre died from a mc'Donald's supersized radon meal
the day malcolm was assassinated
and martin, and panthers
the day assata was confined
to be a 6 x 3 reality
the day any movement
was called progress
while laws take three steps back
bush can give speeches
in london liberia ghana
but i know rhetoric is bullshit
in any language
and the death march goes on
but not in my name
not today
never.



Photo by Dan Dry

Crime, Punishment, and the Nashville 4: Trials held for the Iraq War Protestors at Frist's Office

Karl Meyer ~ War Resisters League

The Tennessee Constitution, Declaration of Rights, Article I, Section 23 declares categorically: "the citizens have a right, in a peaceable manner, to assemble together for their common good, to instruct their representatives, and to apply to those invested with the powers of government for redress of grievances, or other proper purposes, by address of remonstrance."

Senator Bill Frist, as Majority Leader, was a key supporter of the Bush Administration's preventive war against Iraq. Carrying grievances regarding the deaths of the innocent people in Iraq and the US soldiers in harms way, a number of us thought it a proper purpose to go to his Nashville office several times during the war in March and April.

Within each of those visits to Senator Frist's office, there were arrests made: Vanderbilt PhD student Jason Bell and MTSU professor Andrew Smith, local carpenter Karl Meyer, and hospice nurse Pam Beziat.

A hearing and two trials took place in June and July for four people arrested in March and April, charged with "criminal trespass" for using these rights at the Nashville office of Senator Bill Frist, a key supporter of the Bush Administration's preventive war against Iraq.

On June 30, Judge Mark Fishburn found probable cause to continue the case against Jason Bell and Andy "Sunfrog" Smith; they must now wait an indefinite period to find out whether the State prosecutor will get them indicted by a grand jury. They were represented *pro bono* by Ray McGowan.

Karl Meyer spent nineteen days in jail awaiting trial in March and April.

Representing himself, he appealed one of his convictions, for a vigil on the sidewalk landing outside the private office building where Senator Frist's public office is located. His appeal was to be based on the free speech and assembly guarantees of the Tennessee and U.S. Constitutions. Judge J.

Randall Wyatt overturned the conviction, dismissed the charges, and ordered an immediate refund of Karl's \$1000 cash appeal bond when the State failed to produce their witnesses and press their complaint at the scheduled trial on July 3.

Judge J. Randall Wyatt overturned the conviction, dismissed the charges, and ordered an immediate \$1000 cash appeal bond...

Pam Beziat also represented herself on July 21, her first experience in defending herself at a criminal trial. She cross-examined the police witness, Sgt. Johnson, and called

Karl as a defense witness. She made a brief but eloquent closing argument based on the Tennessee and U. S. Constitution guarantees of free assembly.

Judge William Higgins made a finding of guilt, but deferred judgment and placed her on unsupervised probation for thirty days; if she is not arrested in the thirty day period, he will dismiss the charges without a judgment of guilt, and she may, if she wishes, apply for expungement of the arrest and the trial findings from her record. He did not impose any fine or penalty.

Two criminal defense lawyers came up to us outside the courtroom to congratulate Pam on her defense. One said, "What you did in there would make us proud to be lawyers." The other told us, "He's the best criminal lawyer in Nashville."

In a time of legal regression, it is vital to assert and defend our Constitutional rights with vigor and determination.

Member Profile

Amnesty International

Nashville Chapter

"I have been involved in human rights grassroots activism since my days at (or near) the university of Georgia in Athens in the late 70's and early 80's," said founding member Randy Tatel. "When I intentionally decided to spend more of my time doing volunteer work in

Christina Van Regenmorter ~ NPJC staff

1999, I also recognized that I wanted to be effective, make a tangible difference, and save lives. Amnesty International is effective, saves lives, and influences human rights and current events discourse in an observable way."

While protesting and letter writing and sweat doesn't always bear fruit for peace and justice, the few members of Nashville's Amnesty chapter have remained faithful. At 6:00 pm on the third Tuesday of every month, they come to the NPJC office to write letters to prison guards, presidents, and police chiefs in Latin America. Many have been doing it for years.

"During high school, one of my favorite counselors was trying to start a student group," said Amnesty member Marci Seamples. "I went to an introductory meeting and for the first time I consciously realized that many people didn't enjoy the same freedoms or securities as I did -- even those as basic as thought and speech. Years later, I'm still involved with the organization. Amnesty provided me with a tangible way to help and protect people. Even simple letter-writing activities are rewarding -- we really see results from our work."

Amnesty International is an all-volunteer organization at the chapter level. Nashville's chapter is in need of volunteers to take leadership positions and bring more of AI's programs to Nashville. There's the LGBT program "OUTfront," the environmental defender's program "EarthFirst," and the Women's Human Rights Network. They also need administrative volunteers to build a data base, manage an e-mail information distribution list, recruit other volunteer members, and collaborate with other organizations.

"The Nashville chapter is small, but mighty and growing," said Seamples. "I can see the group getting larger and becoming a real force for human rights activism and awareness in the middle Tennessee region. This is an exciting time, and we always welcome newcomers to our meetings and events."

VOLUNTEER

aiusa149@earthlink.net
615-329-0048

Morality vs. Piety in Alabama

Alabama voters are facing a referendum on September 9 that was triggered by Christian concern for **justice in tax policy**.

Gene TeSelle - La Casa

It all got started when Susan Pace Hamill, a professor of law at the University of Alabama, wrote an M.T.S. thesis at the Beeson School of Theology at Samford University, a Baptist school. It was published in the Alabama Law Review and more recently, in a more popular version, as *The Least of These: Tax Reform and the Commands of Faith*.

(For information on all of this, you could go to www.law.ua.edu/directory/bio/shamill.html and www.alavoices.org/pdf/least_of_these.)

Hamill points out that the Bible has much to say about responsibility for the poor and powerless, including safety nets; it also warns against penalizing such people, e.g., by taking a cloak or millstone in pledge for debt. Then she turns to her state of Alabama, which has the lowest property taxes in the nation, a regressive income tax, and favorable tax rates for the timber industry.

"You cannot serve both God and money," she concludes, and she challenges Alabama's ministers to preach God's word with courage and clarity.

Republican governor Bob Riley got the message. In Congress he had consistently opposed new taxes, and the state's conservatives thought they would be getting a tax-cutting governor. Instead he is asking Alabama voters to approve a \$1.2 billion tax package that will ease the burden on lower-income people and increase taxes on farms and timber tracts with more than 2,000 acres.

The Christian Coalition of Alabama is crying foul. It has a different solution. Low taxes on families, it says, encourage tithing to the church. Nowhere does Scripture say that government ought to take care of the poor; this is the duty of the church. The church is not responsible for government, and high taxes simply hurt families.

10,000 Villages...and One City

Jan Dick - NPJC member

In a world that is being torn apart by civil, political, and economic strife, there is a force promoting international harmony,

economic justice, and world community right in the heart of Nashville. Surprisingly, this mission can be furthered by shopping for lovely handcrafted items in a small, colorful shop in Green Hills called Ten Thousand Villages.

Through its network of nonprofit retail stores, Ten Thousand Villages provides vital, fair income to citizens of over 30 underdeveloped countries by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. Income generated by alternative shopping at Ten Thousand Villages stores helps pay for food, education, health care or housing for artisans who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed. Corporately, Ten Thousand Villages is a nonprofit program of the Mennonite Central Committee, a relief, service, and peace agency of Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches in North America.

Ten Thousand Villages develops unique, ongoing relationships with artisan groups in Latin America, Asia, and Africa. Working directly with the artisans who are most in need of work, Ten Thousand Villages helps them to develop their products and determine fair prices for their crafts. Artisans are paid half the price of their crafts when an order is placed, allowing them to purchase raw materials without going into debt. The remainder of the price is paid when the items leave port to be shipped to North America. Working with talented artisans with little access to markets for their handicrafts, Ten Thousand Villages bears the burden of marketing and selling the products, while artisans are empowered to earn vital income. Ten Thousand Villages is a member of the International Federation for Alternative Trade and the Fair Trade Federation, U.S.

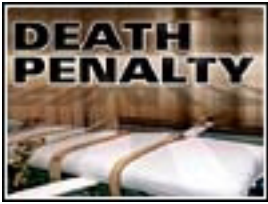
Over 70% of the artisans supported by Ten Thousand Villages are women who do not have a viable role in their communities and are without a source of income. Telling the stories of the artisans is an important dimension of the Ten Thousand Villages mission. Ansari Khatoon is a member of a batik-making group living and working in Calcutta, India. Ansari began work at age 16 with little formal education. Through the support of her artisan group, Ansari has had the opportunity to learn to read and write, becoming a teacher and leader in the group. Ansari's artisan group is called Ankur Kala, which means "seedling of art". It has brought together impoverished but talented women of Christian, Muslim, and Hindu faith, who begin every morning gathering for prayer and meditation, in a unity remarkable in a country otherwise torn by class and religious divisions. The motto of the Ankur Kala is: "Not by charity, nor by sympathy, but through hard work and integrity we shall strive for our dignity."

Ten Thousand Villages depends on volunteers to keep overhead expenses low. Volunteers are the backbone of the operations of the U.S. and Canadian warehouses and of the day-to-day operations of the non-profit retail stores.

Nashvillians can support the mission of Ten Thousand Villages in several ways:

- Visit the store and shop! Located at 3900 Hillsboro Pike, in Hillsboro Plaza, where Hillsboro Pike meets Abbott Martin Road, the Ten Thousand Villages store presents a world of international beauty and education. You can "shop with a conscience" and learn more about the mission and the artisans whose talents enrich our lives and whose lives are, in turn, enriched by our support. Attend "Women's Friendship Day" on Saturday, September 13, and look for new items created by Huynh Thi Sanh and her partners of Mai Handicrafts, Vietnam.
- Volunteer! There is always a critical need for volunteers to work with customers and handle sales in the shop, to be available to unpack new orders, and to run simple errands.
- Help to spread the word! Tell others in your world about Ten Thousand Villages. Become a part of a communication network by sharing your e-mail address with us, and then share information about upcoming special events with your e-mail contacts.

For more information about any aspect of Ten Thousand Villages, or to inquire about volunteering, visit the store or call Lisa or Alana at 385-5814. In a very simple way, a beautiful gift for yourself or a loved one can reach across cultural, political and economic divisions to give the gift of dignity, hope, and self-sufficiency where it is needed most.



SPOTLIGHT ON NASHVILLE:

NCADP CONFERENCE HEADS TO TENNESSEE

Randy Tatel ~ TCASK

Nashville will host the annual conference of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, an opportunity that will highlight the death penalty debate in Tennessee and attract new members and supporters to NCADP's affiliate, the Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing (TCASK).

The conference, scheduled for Oct. 16-19, is titled Tennessee and the New South: Organizing for Abolition. "Tennessee is the gateway to the New South and also is the gateway to abolition," said Steven W. Hawkins, NCADP's executive director.

"On the one hand, Tennessee has demonstrated an ambivalence toward use of the death penalty that other southern states have not (see sidebar). On the other hand, the same problems exist with the death penalty system in Tennessee that exist in states such as Texas and Florida that routinely carry out executions. Tennessee's system is marred by wrongful death penalty convictions, bias, lack of quality defense counsel and prosecutorial misconduct."

The conference will include plenary sessions, keynote addresses, and workshops that will cover such topics as creative mechanisms to maximize community outreach and organizing, building a successful moratorium movement, effective media advocacy, using art as a political tool, how to address the needs of people on death row and their loved ones, and how to build a diverse movement that includes people from all backgrounds, including those who have lost family members to murder.

The conference will be held at the Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel, located at 623 Union Street. Early-bird registration is available at the rate of \$110 per person for those who wish to attend both the conference and the NCADP Awards Banquet (a \$30 savings for you budget hawks!), which will be held the evening of Saturday, Oct. 18. The rate is \$85 for those who want to attend the conference but do not want to attend the awards banquet. In addition, student rates are available for \$25, and scholarship money is being set aside.

Tennessee's contiguous border with 8 southern states has motivated the organization's chapters to carry out extensive, personalized outreach to bring southern abolitionists together. We can make significant headway into this "deep south" problem if we join together, "en masse," as a community to challenge and teach one another how to be successful and efficient.

The murder rates remain highest in the South, where executions are most common and lowest in states without the death penalty: Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Vermont in the Northeast and North and South Dakota.

"The South has the highest murder rate of the four regions of the country," said Richard Dieter, executive director of the death penalty group. "The Northeast, the region with by far the fewest executions, had the lowest murder rate. And Texas, the country's leading execution state, experienced an increase in its homicide rate in 2001."

NCADP's annual conference is held each October in a different location. The conference location is carefully chosen to help highlight a state in which the debate over the death penalty has played a prominent role. Last year, for instance, the conference was held in Chicago, where Illinois Gov. George Ryan was considering whether to grant clemency to Illinois' death row population. "Hosting the NCADP conference in Chicago at the time that Governor Ryan was considering commutation for Illinois death row prisoners helped

increase attention on the flaws and injustices in the system," said Jane Bohman, executive director of the Illinois Coalition Against the Death Penalty.

This year's conference will have a unique Southern U.S. - Tennessee theme. Workshops will feature many presenters from the state, including a special workshop on Tennessee's successful Visitors on Death Row program. In addition, in keeping with NCADP tradition, a number of Tennessee's abolitionists will receive awards at the NCADP annual banquet.

Thursday evening TCASK will host an evening of entertainment and energizing that will also serve as the organization's annual membership meeting. Friday afternoon will feature

a large abolition rally outside in legislative plaza conveniently located across the street from the Sheraton conference site. Friday evening TCASK hopes to tap into the city's "Music City USA" vanguard of talented singers and songwriters for a special evening of entertainment.

For more information about the conference, please visit NCADP's web site at www.ncadp.org.



"For so many years, you know, I've always just figured I'm dead and that's that — that there's nothing I could ever do to change things." -- Philip Workman, slated to be executed in Tennessee on September 24.

- The bullet was not from Philip's gun.
- Eyewitness recanted testimony — supported by facts of the case.
- Eyewitness who never testified places another firing weapon at the scene.
- Perjury committed by Officer Parker when denying he had a shotgun at the scene.

<http://philipworkman.net>

Privacy, Abortion, and the TN Constitution

Back to haunt us in the next session of the Tennessee Legislature will be the proposed amendment to the Tennessee Constitution to exempt abortion from the privacy guarantee. It has had many sponsors in the state House and Senate; it previously passed the state senate by a vote of 21 to 10 (with two not voting), so it is a distinct possibility.

If *Roe v. Wade* were overturned and our State Constitution amended, women in Tennessee would not be protected to obtain an abortion. Undermining the integrity and independence of the Tennessee Supreme Court, this could lead to other erosions of privacy guarantees under the Tennessee Constitution, including freedom of worship (Article 1, Section 7); protection against unreasonable searches and seizures (Article 1, Section 3); and freedom of speech and press (Article 1, Section 19). It is also a question of state sovereignty; Tennessee would become the first state to give up its sovereign rights.

This proposed amendment is the result of the ACLU/Planned Parenthood victory in the Tennessee Supreme Court, where they successfully challenged several restrictive provisions in the Tennessee Abortion Statute. In September 2000, the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled that several provisions were unconstitutional and that the Tennessee Constitution afforded women a right to privacy in seeking an abortion. This was the first time that the State Supreme Court considered the issue of abortion under the Tennessee Constitution and held that it provided greater protection than the US Constitution.

The amendment is opposed by the Tennessee Alliance for Choice, ACLU, Planned Parenthood, NOW, the Womens Political Caucus, the Tennessee Bar Association, Nashville Chapter Americans United for Separation of Church and State and others.

The amendment first has to pass in both chambers, then be reintroduced and pass by a two-thirds vote in both houses. There would then be a state-wide referendum. Analysis shows a potential for it to get through the legislature. An electorate not realizing the full implications of its somewhat obscure language may pass it.

Some religious groups will be working to assure its passage, continuing their goal towards whittling away at a woman's right to choose. However, though many major religious bodies have declared abortion rights to be a religious issue, some believe that a decision to have an abortion can be a moral one under some circumstances. This legislation doesn't represent the diversity of religious and secular opinion.

We should let our state legislators know that we think privacy rights should not be taken away because of one's gender and that our State Constitution should protect all Tennesseans.

If you have access to the Web, you can obtain information on church-state issues by going to www.AU.org or the Nashville site, www.Nashville-AU.org. If you are interested in discussion or staying in touch locally, send a message to President@Nashville-AU.org.

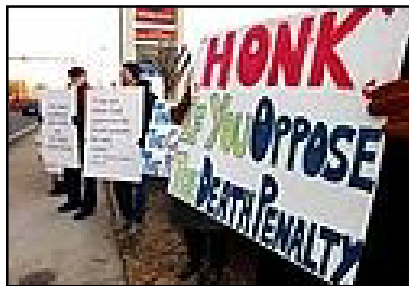
Charles A. Sumner ~ Americans United



Bishop Gumbleton brandishes a cardboard nuclear missile at the Oak Ridge Protest on August 10. Gumbleton spoke with NPJC volunteer, Sean Siple, promising to come to Nashville. Around 16 Nashvillians travelled to Oak Ridge for the event. Photo by Marcelle Good.



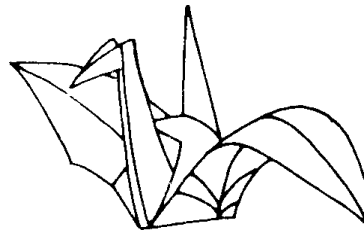
Aerial view of the March MTSU peace protest. Activist Ryan Husak, organizer of that protest, has moved to Nashville and started a chapter of Solidarity. For more information, contact him at: rsh2a@mtsu.edu. Photo from Tennessee Independent Media Center, <http://tnimc.org>.



Vigilers in Memphis rally against the death penalty. Due to the contributions of the Nashville community, including those of Jessica Humphrey, Abu-Ali was not executed in June. To get involved in abolishing the death penalty, contact TCASK: 615-329-0048.



Nini Thomas, an artist and member of the Peace Coalition, painted this picture for the NPJC benefit. The face in the painting is that of a young child Basra, Iraq that Voices in the Wilderness visited. To learn more about VITW: www.vitw.org.



1,000 origami peace cranes arrived at the NPJC before the Oak Ridge protest. Peace Coalition member Peter Kaskin told friends in Japan about our trip. Elderly hospitalized Japanese women sent them to us with hopes for peace.



Ryan Smith inspects the flowerbeds outside of the Republican Party headquarters while Joe Overton tries to

breathe through a gas mask for the first time. On August 4, over a dozen participants of the Weapons of Mass Deception Bike Tour 2003 cycled through the streets of Nashville. To learn more about the deceptions or to get a well-documented flyer on our current administration's factual inconsistencies, contact the NPJC at 615-321-9066 or info@nashvillepeacejustice.org.



Drop-Off Recycling Davidson County Guidelines

Nashville has eight full time recycling drop-offs, three Saturday only recycling drop-offs, and two Recycle/Convenience centers that are open seven days a week. Drop-offs offer citizens who live the General Services District, apartments, condominiums, and businesses an opportunity to recycle. Residents who live in the Urban Services District who have Curby recycling carts can use the drop-offs to recycle their glass and plastic bottles.

Mixed Paper

YES - newspaper, magazines, junk mail, phone books, catalogs, manuals, paperback books, construction paper, computer paper, notebook paper, freezer food boxes.

NO - paper towels, lumber, wax paper, napkins, tissue, juice and soy milk cartons.

Cardboard

Yes - cardboard boxes, brown paper bags, paperboard, cereal boxes.

NO - waxed boxes, pizza boxes

Glass

YES - green, clear and brown bottles and jars... Please remove the lids and wash out the container

NO - window glass, ceramic containers, drinking glasses, car windows, light bulbs, blue glass or any glass besides glass containers

Plastic

YES - plastic bottles 1&2, the body of the container should be larger than the neck such as soda and juice bottles, milk jugs, and detergent containers. Please remove the lids and wash out the container.

NO - other plastic such as plastic trays, yogurt or butter containers, plastic buckets, lawn furniture, computers, plastic phones, oil containers, plastic bags (plastic bags can be recycled at Kroger and Publix grocery store locations), or any type plastic except 1&2 bottles

Aluminum cans and metal cans

YES - aluminum beverage containers, metal food containers, metal lids from food containers

NO - bulk metal, aerosol cans, car engines, bed frames, aluminum foil or pie plates, hangers, and other various metals.

Nashville's two recycle/convenience centers have special containers for **bulk metal, construction and demolition waste, tires**, and other items the drop-offs do not accept.

The Recycle/Convenience Center on Dr. Richard Adams Drive in east Nashville also accepts **House Hold Hazardous** waste at no charge. Please call 880-1000 for directions.

Visit our bi-lingual website:
www.nashville.gov/recycle

Contact Sherry Sloan at 862-4067 with questions.

These guidelines are the full correction for last issue's highly edited (and inaccurate) insert. Please read, cut out, and use as you recycle. - Editorial Collective

Progressive Calendar (with Comments)

**Every Wednesday: 6:00 PM, NPJC
Peace Coalition: Open to All Activists.**

**Third Monday of each month: 6:30 PM, NPJC
Issues Forum: Open to All for learning and dialogue.**

Saturday, September 6

**Peace CookOff
5:00 - 7:00, NPJC**

Get cooking...and get competitive. All are welcome at the First Great Peace Cookoff. Prize: picture in newsletter and a unique art gift by Courtney Underhill. Free to all.

**Monday, September 8
West End Ave. and 21st.
4:00-7:00 pm**

President Bush is presiding over \$2,000 appetizers at the Leow's Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel.

Monday, September 29-30

TBA

Noon - Breakfast

Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride, a massive, well-organized campaign led by the AFL-CIO and United for Peace and Justice (among others) is stopping in Nashville. For more information: www.iwfr.org. To help out in Nashville, contact Mario Ramos at 615-329-4588.

Saturday, October 4

TBA

News from Palestine. Hilary Rantisi, with the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, Jerusalem, and Paul Beran II, with World Vision International in Jerusalem will speak in Nashville. Sponsored by the Presbyterian Peacemaking Committee.

October 13-20

Legislative Plaza

The International Faces of Collateral Damage. A week-long educational vigil focusing on the consequences of US foreign and domestic policies. To participate as a speaker, booth caretaker, or volunteer, contact sean@nashvillepeacejustice.org.

October 16-19

The 2003 National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty Conference. An activist's training conference, there will be 23 skill building workshops, diverse plenaries, and a rally. For more information call the Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing at 615-329-0048 or we invite you enroll on-line at <http://www.ncadp.org/html/conference.html>

November 21-23

Annual SOA Protest.

Stand against US foreign policy outside Fort Benning, Georgia with van loads of Nashvillians joining nuns, political refugees, college students, and 10,000+ other concerned citizens of the world. Contact christina@nashvillepeacejustice.org or 615-321-9066 to join the Nashville caravan. Or, check out www.soaw.org to learn more about the School of the Americas and the reasons people have decided to seek its closure.

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 _____

.....continued from page 2

When I was puzzling over the looting, I said to myself, "Kathy Kelly, you don't have to think very hard about wanton and mindless destruction. You just have only to look at yourself most days in the United States." Once I set one foot out of bed in the morning, I am on a roll with wanton and mindless destruction. I start consuming and wasting at a level and a pace this planet can't sustain, that future generations can't survive. I use up electricity, gasoline, natural gas. I don't even know how to drive a car, but I'm right neck and neck with the rest of the country because of how often I'm on an airplane."

The possible taking over of Iraq's precious and irreplaceable resources (particularly its oil wells) to be put under the control of major United States corporations is a sophisticated, high-level looting. It is disturbing to me that the United States has said that the Iraqi humanitarian assistance will be under the leadership of the United States, the International Monetary fund and the World Bank. We might be looking at some very intense looting in the future.

But how do we explain this social unrest, this volcano that erupted?There were those in Iraq who lived lives of abject and grinding poverty year-in and year-out. Their sons were slaughtered in the Iran-Iraq war, in the Gulf War, and in the next Gulf War. After that war, they found out they still couldn't get ahead...that they still couldn't get any purchasing power in their pockets just to meet basic necessities. These people saw others who seemed not to be so affected by the economic sanctions, those who still had assets to rely on, had family members sending money back, or made money on smuggling, and they felt that those people didn't care about their situation. I think their looting came out of a retributive sense of, "Well, then, we are going to lay claim to what gave you pride and gave you a sense of privilege."

...Immediately after there was freedom of movement, two people I was close to, Hisham Al'Sharav and Majim Al'Gadzali, came to us to use our satellite phone. Hisham's house had been bombed and looted, and They were desperate to make calls out to relatives in Oman. they said they were going to go to the US Military to beg the US military to dispatch some kind of vehicle over to the Baghdad School of Folk Music and Ballet in hope that they might be able to protect that school. It was built in 1960, and it was the only school of its kind in the entire Middle East. It offered musical education and dance both in the classical Arab and Western styles. They very much hoped they could preserve it, but the US military said, "We're sorry we can't help you."

That night, they went to post themselves as unarmed guards. Five men with Kalashnikovs came and said, "Sorry, we are not going to respect your plea." These guys offered to give them all of the instruments, to give them all of the furniture, to give them anything saleable. "Just please," they begged, "don't destroy our entire school, don't destroy our records, don't destroy the history we have in this place." And the looters said, "Lalalalalala," and proceeded to break everything they didn't steal. The place was totally ransacked, the windows broken. The piano that had a double keyboard, one to play western music, one to play oriental music, was smashed. Other instruments were broken, and sections of the school burned. The place was in shambles.

Hisham and Majim came back to tell us that, and they brought me up to the 5th floor. They gave me a tape, and they said, "We want you to listen to this." They put head phones on me, and it was the song our peace choir just sang ["A Song of Peace"]. They said, "This is all that's left of the school." Feeling, at that point, that there was so much that was cruel and abusive about this war, so much about the aftermath of the war, I felt guilty for feeling a twinge of remorse and regret that I'd never be able to share that song with people in the United States ever again. I couldn't imagine that people in Iraq would be willing to sing a united peace anthem about common aspirations between people again. I have to say I felt terribly, terribly down.to be continued **Next Issue**

Letter from the Center

...continued from page 1

would that be enough? What if we still refused to share, refused to respect all people's freedom and dignity, refused to forgive another their faults, and remained judge, jury and executioner?

It occurred to me that when Brown was passed, it could have been interpreted as a call that all children, regardless of arbitrary differentia, deserve a great education. It could have been a historic moment. It could have marked real advancement toward equality and right relationship with one another.

Instead, because this was an affront to our institutions of money and power, the spirit of the decree was drowned out by greed and violence. In 1954, we were not serious about equality. In 2003, we aren't serious yet, or the Poor People's March wouldn't have stopped in Nashville last month.

Those of us who shared food and time with the KWRU and Pastors for Peace were changed by the experience. They came to help us -- to help us get serious, get straight, get clear. It isn't until we become decent people that we can then behold a decent society.

So we organize. We keep coming. We keep trying to be decent. We ask everyone we meet to participate in these sometimes substantive and sometimes symbolic efforts so we can change, we can lead, we can confirm our agreements that all people are created equal, deserve life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

This is why we organize, why we keep the movement in motion.

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12:00-5:00 Saturday

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Calendar
 October
 September
 Fall 2003

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; caller's message is recorded for reference of public opinions)

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, Fax (615) 741-4574 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

- September 6: **NPJC Cook-Off** at NPJC*. 5:00 start. 7:00 judging. Contact 578-2493 with questions.
 - September 8: **President Bush in Nashville:** Leows-Vanderbilt Hotel. Contact Sean at 321-9066.
 - September 13: **Worldwide Day of Action against Corporate Globalization and War.** Contact rsh2a@mtsu.edu.
 - September 22: **Love Your Body Day NOW** at NPJC*. 7:00 p.m.
 - September 29: **Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride** in Nashville. To volunteer: call Mario Ramos at 329-4588.
 - September 30: **Breakfast with the Freedom Riders.** To cook: contact christina@nashvillepeacejustice.org
 - October 10-11: **TN NOW State Conference.** Contact tennesseehow@comcast.net or call 269-7141.
 - October 13-20: **World Faces of Collateral Damage.** Contact Sean at 321-9066.
 - October 16-19: **Tennessee and the New South: Organizing for Abolition.** NCADP conference in Nashville. Contact 615-329-0048 to register.
 - 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 321-9066 or visit www.soaw.org.
- * NPJC offices and board room are at 1016 18th Avenue S. / Nashville, TN. 37212. Call 615-321-9066 for directions.

