

NETWORK NEWS



Wisconsin on the Forefront of Renewable Energy

By Chamomile Nusz and Meghan Patrick-Crane

Wisconsin is well on its way to becoming a renewable-energy leader through new legislation and innovative organizations dedicated to reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and the damage of global warming. And greater local economic development and job creation are expected to be among the benefits.

Wisconsin's Focus on Energy program, a revolutionary partnership of organizations, provides incentives to Wisconsin home owners and businesses who make their buildings more energy efficient or install renewable energy technology. You may qualify for these incentives if your local utility participates in the program. Visit the Focus on Energy website at www.focusonenergy.com to find out.

The Citizens Energy Cooperative of Wisconsin is a renewable energy cooperative that has been extremely successful at increasing the use of solar energy in Wisconsin and creating new jobs. Its mission

is "to provide the people of Wisconsin with the opportunity to take an active role in producing and using clean energy."

CEC owns and operates large scale renewable energy systems, installed on commercial buildings such as hospitals, schools, YMCA's, hotels, and correctional institutions. The renewable energy produced at the installation site is metered and sold to the business on behalf of CEC's members. Facilities purchase energy units from CEC over a 20 year period for a price that is less than what they would be paying for the same quantity of energy for from their utility. After 20 years the system is given to the facility at no cost and their energy is then free! Investing members recoup their investment as the systems become profitable. It is a way for individuals and businesses to offset the non-renewable energy they are using by having renewable energy produced somewhere else for them.

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Overdue; Choices for the Earth

By Marion Stuenkel

"The earth is like a library, to be left intact after enriching ourselves by reading it and after having been enriched by new authors. Life is the most precious book. We must handle it with love, careful not to tear any of its pages, in order that we may pass it on-with new commentaries-to others who will know how to decipher the language of their forebears in the hope of honoring the world they will leave to their sons and daughters." Jacques Attali

Yes, I respond to those words, Yes! But how does an ordinary person act on what is so firmly grasped intellectually, emotionally and ethically?

I think of the burning of the library of Alexandria, Egypt, an act of war related to control of the Roman Empire. Rome is said to have salted the earth of Carthage after defeating her. Now, some 2000 years later the earth of Iraq is peppered with

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In This Issue

By Steve Burns, WNPJ Program Coordinator

This issue, devoted to the environment, marks the final issue in a series of newsletters devoted to each of the five planks in our "Wisconsin Peace Platform."

Beginning more than a year ago with the theme of "International cooperation, justice and equality", each issue has attempted to make clear the connections between "a fair and sustainable economy", a "truly democratic society", a "nonviolent society", and now, a "peaceable and safe environment."

Recognizing these connections is a source of strength for the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice and the grassroots activists it supports. And the Bush administration, with its agenda of aggressive oil wars, has helped to make these connections all too evident.

In this issue, WNPJ members Marion Stuenkel and Chuck Baynton demonstrate that "the personal is the political", each

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Overdue from front page

Depleted Uranium. War is destructive of libraries and the earth.

I inherited a book from my maternal ancestor born in 1799. In *Mammon*, Reverend John Harris writes, "*Indeed, war itself-what has it often been but the art of gain practiced on the largest scale.... Philosophy itself has become a mercenary in its pay, and science, a votary at its shrine, brings all its noblest discoveries, as offerings to its feet. What part of the globe's surface is not rapidly yielding up its last stores of hidden treasure ...or retains more than a few miles of unexplored unvanquished territory. Scorning the childish dream of the philosopher's stone it aspires to turn the globe itself into gold.*" Gold cannot sustain life.

Scientists create weapons. Chemicals were produced for use in World Wars I and II. Profits continued as these poisons were marketed by corporations to farmers as fertilizers and pesticides. All farms were organic until the 1950's when war chemicals began to saturate the earth.

I name specialized professions, governments, and corporations among the culprits in burning the library of earth. Culprits within institutions are hard to confront in their aggregate armor of law, wealth and prestige. Culprits, before which, an ordinary person might feel powerlessness. But scientists are not driving my car to purchase processed food in resource wasteful packages. My government is not forcing me to eat strawberries trucked 3000 miles on the way to my table in January. Corporations are not demanding that more trees be cut down to make more paper on which to print more books for me to buy in a mega bookstore on the edge of town, instead of taking the bus to the neighbor-

hood library, borrowing the book and returning it on time so that another can read it.

Reverend Harris, read by seven generations of my family, writes, "*The cure you need, consists, not in the increase of your wealth, but in the reduction of your desires...*" 18th century Quaker John Woolman, wrote "... *May we look upon our treasures, the furniture of our houses, and our garments, and try whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions.*"

What shall I do? I vow to end war and protect our earth by not getting or wanting so much stuff. I choose to eat, shelter, clothe and recreate myself locally. My favorite place on earth is a beautiful black rock in the gorge of the Rio Grande west of Questa, New Mexico. Do I love it enough to never get in a car or get on a plane to bask upon it again? Using one gallon of gasoline puts 22 pounds of CO₂ into the air. While I am not in control of the power plant, I am in control of my vehicle, from which over half of my fossil fuel pollution comes. If the war in Iraq were for oil, could I stop using oil and end my part in that war?

We are overdue in transforming knowledge into action. The fine for each one of us being overdue, careless and destructive with our borrowing of the earth will incrementally lead to burning. Timely, careful, intentional living will sustain our earth and like a library generations will have knowledge of her.

Marion Stuenkel is a WNPJ member and can be reached at urakagena@yahoo.com.

Want to calculate your personal contribution to climate change? See Resources on page 4 for the Carbon Quiz website.



The Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice facilitates activities, cooperation and communication among Wisconsin organizations and individuals working toward the creation of a world free from violence and injustice.

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From the WNPJ Office: Volunteers Make WNPJ Work. Thank You!

Thanks to bulk mail volunteers: Dorothy Gosting, Sherman Middle School kids, Gilbertsons, Nadja and Natasha, and Karin Sandvik; thanks to pancake fundraiser volunteers: Janet Parker, Marion Stuenkel and Lucas; thanks to Connie Mudore for brochure proofreading - Barb Boehme for office help - Chuck Baynton and Rick Guerard for tabling, and to Chuck Romstad and Dave Nordstrom for yard sign distribution!

Renewable Energy *from front page*

CEC also sells low-priced, high-quality solar water and space heating systems for residential and commercial applications. A membership in CEC is included with every new system, making the system owner part of a state wide renewable energy network. CEC has more than doubled the square footage of solar thermal systems going up in Wisconsin and hopes to continue this trend for years to come. CEC also does renewable-energy education and outreach events all over the state of Wisconsin. To find out more, visit CEC's web site at www.cecofwi.com or call 715-256-3993. You can request one of CEC's site assessments to find out if your home or business is suitable for a solar system.

The Wisconsin state government put new support behind renewable energy when Governor Doyle signed the Energy Efficiency and Renewables Act into law. The bill pledges to make the use of renewable energy a top priority in the state of Wisconsin, requiring that ten percent of all energy in Wisconsin come from renewable sources, such as wind and solar energy, by the year 2015.

The bill is expected to generate many new renewable-energy jobs in Wisconsin and reduce the state's dependence on imported fuels, which now cost Wisconsin over \$15 billion per year.

The bill also puts an end to raids by the state legislature on funds set aside for energy conservation and renewable energy. In the past, these funds, part of the state's

Public Benefits Program, had been diverted to make up for funding shortfalls elsewhere in the budget.

UW campuses are also leading the way. University of Wisconsin campuses in Green Bay, Oshkosh, River Falls, and Stevens Point have all pledged to be 100% reliant on renewable energy to heat, cool and provide electricity for the schools by 2012. The campuses will work with the Department of Administration's Division of State Facilities to develop new technologies to reach this goal.

This change alone will save an estimated 260,000 tons of coal over a 10 year period and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 676,000 tons, while saving taxpayers money. The initiative will also create 17,000 jobs, staying right on track with the pledge of the Energy Efficiency and Renewables Act.

Putting this plan into action allows college students, who are on the cusp of the impending damage of global warming, to create solutions to the problems caused by fossil fuels. They are not only making a difference on their campus and therefore in the state, but also learning ways to implement solutions around the nation and the world. These first steps that our state is taking have endless possibilities and put us in a position to do much much more in the future.

Even the U.S. Congress is now rewarding renewable energy users. In Decem-

ber 2006, the 109th Congress passed legislation that would prolong the 30% solar investment tax credit to homeowners and businesses until December 31st, 2008. The tax credit, which originated in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, allows residential owners to purchase solar water heating, photovoltaic equipment, and fuel cell systems. Business owners are able to buy fuel cell power plants, solar energy systems, and fiber-optic systems and receive a tax credit helping to bring down the up-front cost of a solar system.

After December 2008, if no further action is taken, the bill will revert back to a ten percent tax credit. You can help by calling your federal representatives and encouraging them to vote to extend the solar tax credit.

As a home owner, business owner, or both, you have the choice of whether or not to become a part of this cause and a choice of where your energy comes from. Renewable energy is homeland security and we as Americans have the power to change the way we live and treat our environment. One person, one home, one business can make an impact. So make the difference and become a part of the solution.

Cham Nusz is a member of the WNPJ Executive Committee and can be reached at 715-256-3993 or info@cecofwi.com.

In This Issue *from front page*

reporting on their efforts to live a more sustainable lifestyle, and the sometimes surprising benefits that result.

Chamomile Nusz, of WNPJ member group Citizens Energy Cooperative takes the discussion beyond personal action to collective action and legislative action. Thanks to groups like CEC, Wisconsin is the home of many encouraging state-

level initiatives to protect the environment. Americans are no longer waiting for Washington to take action on the threat of global climate change, and are pursuing action closer to home, through personal action and in their state legislatures.

On June 15, WNPJ member group Midwest Renewable Energy Associa-

tion will be dedicating the first day of its annual Renewable Energy Fair to peace. The day will begin with "Pancakes for Peace", sponsored by Waupaca People for Peace and WNPJ, followed by a talk by legendary anti-nuclear activist Dr. Helen Caldicott and WNPJ's sixth annual peace walk. It seems we've moved past the point when some would ask, "What does renewable energy have to do with peace?"

USE IT OR LOSE IT

A personal commitment to Public Transportation

By Chuck Baynton, WNPJ EC member

According to that principle, when it comes to public transportation, for a long time Americans have been losing it. We've set aside the question of sustainability, and so decided we "can afford" to build our lives around tens of miles of daily travel as sole occupants of large, heavy vehicles. We have simultaneously designed newly built-up areas around the self-fulfilling prophecy that essentially all travel will be in those vehicles.

Somewhere around 1962, the year I turned 13, someone showed me books by social critic Vance Packard. I think it was his *Waste Makers* that had a chapter title something like this: "Achieving an Enduring Style of Life." "Well, of course! That makes sense," an emerging independent voice inside me said.

From there, it's not a great leap to where I always consider public transit options in deciding where to live or how to travel. At times, I've paid a price in inconvenience, but other times there are unexpected rewards.

In 1976, I commuted from Denver to Boulder, Colorado for a summer job. It was a 3-stage commute. Bike to the bus, load the bike in baggage, ride the bus 30 miles, and then bike the last mile to work. I owned a car, but reserved it for times when public transit wouldn't work.

One day I boarded the bus and chose a seat across the aisle from an attractive, solitary young woman. She would later confess she'd already noticed me, and imagined me on a long-distance bicycle adventure.

Fate intervened, disguised as a young couple with two toddlers. They came up the aisle searching for a place to sit. No place left with two seats together. What was a well-mannered young man to do? I surrendered my treasured two seats together and moved across the aisle.

My new companion had moments earlier arrived in Denver for the first time in her life. She was full of Colorado questions, starting with "Where are the moun-

tains?" (obscured that day by vehicle-generated smog).

Unable to answer them all on a short bus ride, we arranged to continue the conversation the next day. Anne and I married on October 6, 1979.

Good thing I only have one public transit story quite like that. But I keep checking schedules, and riding when it works. Last October, WNPJ's Assembly in LaCrosse got me on Amtrak's current Superliner service for the first time. The Empire Builder leaves Milwaukee late each afternoon and arrives in LaCrosse when it's still supper hour. A comfortable, spacious seat, a smooth, quiet ride, and fine dining with a great view and interesting dinner companions set me back 69 bucks, tax and tip included.

And if you don't believe a blood-red sunset beyond a half-mile of waving cornstalks comes with the deal, buy a ticket next October and see for yourself.

Contact information for Chuck Baynton, cbaynton@gmail.com or 414-961-1467

Peace and Justice Resources

**"Ecuador: International Conference for the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases." A report on no military bases conference in Ecuador in March 2007 by WNPJ member, Marc Becker, is available at <http://upsidedownworld.org/main/content/view/664/1/>.

**A worksheet that lets you calculate your personal carbon dioxide emissions can be found by going to www.vtearthinstitute.org/education and clicking on Carbon Quiz.

**The Stop CAFTA coalition has released its report of the first year of the

Central America Trade Agreement. Read it at www.stopcafta.org and click on "DR-CAFTA in Year One."

***THIRST, Fighting the Corporate Theft of our Water* by Alan Snitow, et al. The book is an extension of the PBS documentary, THIRST. Chapter 8 is devoted to Wisconsin's fight to get Nestle out of our town and out of the state. It is very well documented and of course quotes all of the principals including Arlene and Hiroshi Kanno, Ed Garvey, Melissa Scanlon and others. Jossey-Bass/Wiley & Sons, 2007

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"Mr. Meyer Goes to Washington"

by Judy Miner, office coordinator

Late February '07, members and friends of the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice (WNPJ) gathered in near-blizzard conditions to celebrate and honor the work of Alfred Meyer. As so many know, Alfred's

activism is incomparable. His committed work with a broad array of

efforts is an inspiration; he's a one-man network for peace, justice and the environment! He has been Chair of WNPJ for the past 6 years – and has now moved to Washington DC to work as the Program Director of The Alliance for Nuclear Accountability, an umbrella organization of 35 groups around the country committed to decreasing the dangers to the world from the threat of nuclear weapons.



WNPJ will miss the activism of our accomplished past-chair, Alfred Meyer. His friends and colleagues will miss his supportive words, acute sense of justice, and good humor. We said farewell to Alfred on Saturday evening, Feb. 24th – at a celebration of WNPJ Peacemakers organized by Mary Beth Schlagheck. Retiring board members, Sheila Spear and Cecil Findley were also honored at this event.

We welcome the new leadership for WNPJ provided by Janet Parker and John Peck, co-chairs of WNPJ. Janet can be reached at janet@wnpj.org and John at jepeck@wisc.edu.



Middleton High School at the Chicago Model United Nations

34 Middleton High School students recently completed four days of intense negotiation and debate in their roles as delegates to the 17th annual University of Chicago Model U.N. conference. More than 2,000 high school students from across the country took part in the conference. Students play the roles of ambassadors in this simulation of the real United Nation. The Middleton, WI delegation represented the nations of Mexico and Guinea, under the guidance of Middleton teacher, David Piovanetti.

Students had an opportunity to visit consulates of their respective countries in Chicago as part of this conference, asking the consuls specific policy questions related to the topics being debated at the Model U.N.

Three students from the Middleton team were commended by conference organizers for their outstanding efforts: Konrad Weeda representing Mexico in the World Trade Organization, Jason Tham and David Ziehr representing Mexico in the U.N. Commission on Human Rights. U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan says Model U.N. conferences provide students with invaluable insights into the U.N. system. "They demonstrate to young people that the U.N.'s agenda is also their agenda; that the issues that concern the U.N. concern us all as human beings.

An appeal for others to join in the work of the UNA-USA: This group of bright, articulate young people from Middleton has great opportunities. Their school system, with the assistance of some local groups, and with the persistence of those working

in the group itself, raised the money to go to Chicago. What about other students in other schools of Wisconsin? Those communities also have the potential for great leadership in the Model U.N. program. The program provides opportunities for potential faculty advisers to participate in training programs. It provides materials for parents to understand what is possible for their own young people. The program needs help for this and for other educational and humanitarian programs in the Wisconsin community. For more information on starting a Model U.N. in your community, contact:

Sam Romano or Tom Brown. The United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA Wisconsin Division) 122 State Street Room 407, Madison, WI 53703 sromano@charter.net, 262-723-5329, www.unausa.org.

APRIL

4/24 Tues 7 - 9 pm Jerusalem Women Speak: Three Women, Three Faiths, Three Visions - River Falls. Public Library, 140 Union St. This is the thirteenth national tour sponsored by Partners for Peace - See www.partnersforpeace.org. WNPJ contact: Cathy Sultan at cgsultan@charter.net.

4/27 Fri 8 pm Screening of "Paradise Now" - Madison. At 2241 Chamberlain Hall, UW Madison. Free and open to the public. Discussion to follow. Contact rafahsistercity@yahoo.com.

4/28 Sat 1 - 2 pm Bi-Monthly Peace and Anti-War Demonstrations - Wisconsin Rapids. Meet at the east approach of the Highways 54/13 Expressway Bridge over the Wisconsin River. Sponsored by the Rapids Citizens for Peace. All those working for peace—opposed to war are welcome to join us. Contact Don Hoffman at doncanoe@tznnet.com or 715-421-4942. We honor the spirit of peace in you.

4/28 Sat 8 pm Screening of "The Olive Harvest" - Madison. At 2241 Chamberlain Hall, UW Madison. Free and open to the public. For information on the series, please contact rafahsistercity@yahoo.com. Discussion to follow.

4/28 Sat 12 noon Stand for Peace - Milwaukee. Silver Spring and Pt. Washington Rd. Contact peace@peaceactionwi.org.

MAY

5/1 Tues May Day Immigrant Rights March - Madison. Followed by May Day Carnival on UW's Library Mall with live music,

street theater, and May Pole. Info? #608-262-9036.

5/1 Tues 12 noon May Day Immigration rights March - Milwaukee. Gather at Voces de la Frontera 127 S. 5th St. Join in solidarity with our immigrant brothers and sisters. Contact peace@peaceactionwi.org

5/1 Tues 7 pm Screening of "Salud!" - Madison. At Anderson Auditorium at Edgewood College. \$10 suggested donation. This critically acclaimed 90 minute film is about the Cuban health care system and the Cuban trained health care professionals who are providing medical care throughout the world. Contact: WNPJ member, Lisa Fernandez at pocoapocolisa@juno.com.

5/1 Tues 7 pm Screening of "Soldiers Speak Out within the Military" - Janesville . At UW-Rock County Rm W130. Co-sponsored by Rock Valley -FOR. This DVD sheds light on the growing and courageous anti-war and anti-occupation movement within the military and military families against the war in Iraq. Sue Nelson, snelson@habiba.org.

5/2 - 5/4 Wed - Fri Public Talk by the Dalai Lama - Madison. At the Kohl Center. See <http://www.deerparkcenter.org/>. His Holiness will also be giving four sessions of Buddhist teachings at the Dane County Alliant Energy Center Coliseum.

5/2 Wed 10:30 - 11:30 am Sami Rasouli! - Madison. WNPJ Conference Room, 122 State St., 4th floor. All welcome to hear about Iraq and the Muslim Peacemaker Team. Bagels and coffee. info@wnpj.org.

5/3 Thurs 7 - 9 pm WI Health Care Reform Panel - Brookfield. Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 W. North Ave. Community Forum to discuss the three major health care reform proposals that will be introduced in the Legislature this year. Contact Peter Bakken at 608-837-3108, bakken@wichurches.org.

5/3 Thurs 7:30 pm Lecture on "The Threat from Within: Democracy & Demography in Israel and the Modern Zionist Ideology" - Madison . UW - 105 Psychology. Free and open to the public. Several WNPJ groups are sponsoring. See www.mideast.wisc.edu.

5/6 Sun 9 - 10 am Adult Forum: "An Ecological Ethicist's Update on Global Warming," - Oshkosh. First Congregational Church, 137 Algoma, Blvd. Facilitated by WNPJ member/Rev. Dave Steffenson, WICEC Acting Director. Public welcome, free. Contact: Dave Steffenson at dsteffe@charter.net.

5/8 Tues 7 - 9 pm WI Health Care Reform Panel - Milwaukee. Ebenezer Church of God in Christ, 3132 N. MLK Drive. Community Forum to discuss the three major health care reform proposals that will be introduced in the Legislature this year. Contact Peter Bakken at 608-837-3108, bakken@wichurches.org.

5/13 Sun Annual Mothers Day Peace Luncheon - Milwaukee. Save the date. Contact peace@peaceactionwi.org.

5/13 Sun 10 am - 2 pm Mothers Day Action - Duluth . Grassy area near the lift bridge. Cookies, postcards, proclamation for peace and more. On Monday, May 14, we

Calendar

would like to deliver the proclamation to the Army Recruiting Center and hold a vigil. Contact: Michele Naar-Obed at obedsinduluth@yahoo.com or call 728-0629.

5/19 Sat 5:30 pm 11th Annual 'GSA for Safe Schools' Celebration of Leadership Youth Scholarship Awards Dinner - Madison. At the Monona Terrace. You are all welcome to celebrate our youth and our movement forward in society! Contact Cindy on how to sponsor the event at 608-661-4141.

5/24 Thurs 7 pm – 8:00 pm Pax Christi Presents "Another View of Iran " with Bonnie and Bob Block – Madison. In the Lake Room at Edgewood College , Regina Hall. (Business meeting from 6:30 – 7 pm). Contact: Trudi Jenny at trudijenny@yahoo.com.

JUNE

6/10 Sun The Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Annual Family Brunch – Madison. At the Coliseum Bar. RPCV's needed for guest speakers. If you or a member of your family would be interested in speaking at this event, please contact Mary Ann Feutz at mafeutz@uwalumni.com.

6/15 Fri 8:30 – 11 am Annual Pancakes for Peace Fundraising Event for WNPJ and People for Peace – Custer. At the MREA Energy Fair. See www.the-mrea.org to learn all about this important event in central Wisconsin. Volunteers needed! (see flyer!) Contact: Cham Nusz at chamolmilien@cecofwi.com.

6/15 Fri 1 pm Helen Caldicott Speaks at the Energy Fair Followed by the Annual WALK

for PEACE – Custer. At the MREA Energy Fair. See www.the-mrea.org to learn all about this important event in central Wisconsin. Contact: Cham Nusz at chamolmilien@cecofwi.com.

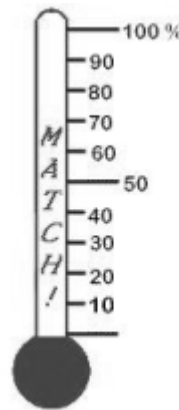
6/22 - 6/24 Fri – Sun United for Peace and Justice 3rd National Assembly - Chicago. Details to follow: Leslie Cagan, National Coordinator, UFPJ. See www.unitedforpeace.org.

6/24 – 30 Sun – Sat Women of the Earth, Women for the Earth: Basketry and Contemplation - Racine. At the Racine Dominican Retreat Program, located at Siena Center, 5635 Erie Street. Learning about the oldest art in the history of civilization, thus connecting us with all women and with the Earth. Contact Sr. Rita Lui at 262.639.4100 x1230.

JULY

7/7 Sat 20th Year Anniversary Party – Luck. At the Anathoth Community Farm. Put in on your calendar now. It's going to be fun and you are going to want to be here, so pen it in. Contact Mike at anathoth@lakeland.ws.

Double your donation with our new Challenge Grant! New WNPJ members and groups can effectively double their contribution by taking advantage of a new challenge grant offered by a generous donor.



Action Alert

IMMIGRATION REFORM: AN ONGOING ALERT

On April 1 the federal REAL ID Act will go into effect. All persons applying for or renewing a Wisconsin driver's license must present a certified birth certificate, U.S. passport, or other proof that they are in the country legally.

The Immigrant Workers Union and its allies are asking the legislature and Governor's office to take a closer look at the problems the Real ID law will create, including more red tape, longer lines, repeat trips, and higher fees. Implementation of the law is expected to cost \$23 billion in taxpayer dollars nationally while doing little, if anything, to protect against terrorism. Critics of Real ID, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), say the law will also increase identify theft, enable the routine tracking of individuals, and propel us toward a surveillance society.

Legislation opposing Real ID has been introduced in the legislatures of 16 states, and three states, Arkansas, Idaho and Maine, have already passed legislation calling on Congress to repeal Real ID, but Wisconsin is still moving forward with these new restrictions. For more on Real ID visit the ACLU's website: www.RealNightmare.org (Note: ACLU – Madison is one of WNPJ newest member groups.)

How you can get involved with the campaign for Immigrant Rights in Wisconsin: *The Immigrant Workers Union* is a grassroots organization focused on immigrant and workers' rights advocacy in the Dane County area. Other WNPJ member groups have joined efforts to address the growing concerns about the REAL ID issue and specifically *ACT 126* in Wisconsin: South Central Federation of Labor, SEIU District 1199, Peace Action Wisconsin, Green Party, and others. For additional information, contact: Alex Gillis, Immigrant Workers Union, uti.madison@gmail.com or (608) 345-9544.

Action Alert

SUPPORT THE WISCONSIN SAFE CLIMATE ACT

The Wisconsin Safe Climate Act (Senate Bill 81 and Assembly Bill 157) is a major legislative initiative to combat global warming. Representative Spencer Black and Senator Mark Miller (WNPJ member) have authored this bill to take action at the state level because the federal government has failed to lead. The Wisconsin Safe Climate Act is similar to last November's landmark California

green house gas reduction law, which established the first-ever comprehensive greenhouse gas reduction program in the United States.

Organizations supporting the Wisconsin Safe Climate Act include the Wisconsin Council of Churches, Madison Audubon Society, Wisconsin Farmers Union, League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, Sierra Club, Lutheran Office for Public Policy, Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters, Physicians for Social

Responsibility, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Wisconsin Interfaith Climate and Energy Campaign, Clean Wisconsin, WISPIRG and the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice.

Action you can take: Let your legislators know you support the Black-Miller Safe Climate Act. Call the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-362-9472, or visit <http://waml.legis.state.wi.us/> to find your legislators.



AN ORCHID TO

The citizens of the Upper Peninsula, who are organizing a strong grassroots campaign against mining giant Kennecott Minerals, which wants to begin mining the area for nickel using an environmentally destructive sulfide-mining process. The legacy of Wisconsin anti-mining activist Roscoe Churchill lives on in their struggle (see P. 9)

The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, for its role in January's overwhelming passage in the state legislature of an ethics reform bill. Wisconsin Democracy Campaign continues its reform campaign with a five-step Power to the Voter agenda (details at www.wisdc.org).

Citizen activists in Glendale and Stoughton, for placing "Bring Our Troops Home" initiatives on their local ballots in the April 2007 election. Both

initiatives passed, Glendale's winning with a 26 point margin of victory. And impeachment advocate and WNPJ member Buzz Davis saw increasing public support in Stoughton's 45% "yes" vote on an impeachment referendum, an increase from November's 38% "yes" vote on a similar referendum in Wisconsin Rapids.

Rhode Island's Family Life Center, an advocacy group for ex-prisoners, for leading a successful effort to amend the Rhode Island state constitution through a voter referendum to restore voting rights to ex-convicts. More than 15,000 citizens have won voting rights through the effort; can this serve as a model for Wisconsin?



AN ONION TO

The promoters of Ethanol – promoting the growing of corn for fuel and energy; giving temporary increase in profits to the farmers, but with long-range negative economic and environmental consequences to our planet.

Senator and Presidential candidate Hilary Clinton - as reported in the March issue of the National Catholic Reporter, Clinton opposes the International Treaty to ban land mines, voted against restricting U.S. exports of cluster bombs to countries that use them against civilian populated areas, opposes restrictions on U.S. arms transfers and police training to governments that engage in human rights abuses and insists upon continuing funding for the Iraq war. She has also challenged the credibility of Amnesty International and other human rights groups that criticize policies of the United States and its allies.

Roscoe Churchill, Environmental Legend, Passes On

by Al Gedicks, of the WI Resource Protection Council

Roscoe Churchill, a dearly beloved leader of Wisconsin's environmental movement, passed away on February 9, 2007, in his sleep after a long struggle with prostate cancer. Churchill, of Ladysmith, was the grandfather of Wisconsin's grassroots anti-mining movement. For more than 30 years, this retired school principal, part-time farmer, former Republican, and Rusk County supervisor, along with his late wife Evelyn, were the heart and soul of the efforts to stop some of the largest mining companies in the world, including Kennecott, Noranda, Exxon, Rio Algom and BHP Billiton from destroying the land and clean waters of communities from Ladysmith to the Mole Lake Chippewa Reservation near Crandon, and from La Crosse County to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

In the early 1970s the Kennecott Copper Company tried to develop a copper mine in Ladysmith and Roscoe became concerned that the mine could endanger local groundwater and disrupt the dairy farming economy of Rusk County. During their retirement years, he and Evelyn traveled across the U.S. and Canada, visiting active and abandoned mines and educating themselves about every aspect of mining. Evelyn specialized in Wisconsin's mining laws and regulations while Roscoe did most of the public speaking and debates with mining company officials and representatives of the Wisconsin DNR. He and Evelyn were among the founders of the Rusk County Citizens Action Group, formed in the mid 1970s to oppose Kennecott's proposed open pit copper mine on the banks of the Flambeau River. Local opposition stopped the mine in 1976 but the company tried again in 1988 and after running roughshod over township opposition and covering up the presence of endangered species in the Flambeau River,

received permits to mine in 1991. The long and sordid history of Kennecott's interference with local democracy and the courageous resistance by grassroots citizens is recounted in the forthcoming book by Roscoe Churchill and his friend Laura Furtman, called *The Buzzards Have Landed: The Real Story of the Flambeau Mine*.

Their discussions around the kitchen table with friends and neighbors led to the drafting and successful passage of the 1998 Wisconsin Mining Moratorium Law, known as the Churchill Moratorium Law within the environmental community. This law set a strict performance standard for mining permits which required mining companies to demonstrate successful mining and post-mining without polluting surrounding surface and groundwaters. No mining company has been able to meet this standard and Wisconsin soon earned a reputation within the international mining industry as the least attractive place to mine.

Roscoe's untiring opposition to ecologically destructive mining had nothing to do with "Not in my backyard" sentiment. He traveled across the state to assist the Indian, environmental and sportfishing alliance that formed to oppose Exxon's proposed Crandon mine at the headwaters of the Wolf River. He was an effective public speaker and organizer with the Wolf Watershed Educational Project, one of the principal groups that stopped Exxon, Rio Algom and BHP Billiton from constructing the ill-conceived Crandon mine. Roscoe spoke before town and county boards all over western Wisconsin in 1997-98 when Kennecott wanted to explore for copper in La Crosse, Jackson, Trempealeau, Clark, and Eau Claire counties. All five counties voted to ban mining on public lands. Roscoe and Evelyn's dedication to preserving sustain-

able economies in Wisconsin received special recognition by several Wisconsin tribes, including the Menominee, the Mole Lake Chippewa, the Forest County Potawatomi, the Lac Courte Oreilles Chippewa and the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Roscoe's knowledge, experience, eloquence and fearlessness in the face of irresponsible corporate and bureaucratic power won the admiration and respect of an entire generation of environmental activists. The Churchill farm became a mecca for young people interested in learning from the elders of the Wisconsin anti-mining movement. Even when the ravages of prostate cancer were slowing him down, he continued to give his time, energy and expertise to newly formed citizen groups opposed to Kennecott's proposed metallic sulfide mine in the Yellow Dog Plains of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. "We can't quit fighting, and we're not going to!" As long as there was breath in his lungs he used his voice to speak uncomfortable truths to power and to inspire hope and confidence in the grassroots. Roscoe and Evelyn's legacy is one of the strongest grassroots environmental movements in the history of Wisconsin.

To help carry on the legacy of these two fine stewards of the environment, memorials may be directed to: Roscoe and Evelyn Memorial Environmental Scholarship Fund, Wells Fargo Bank, 100 Miner Ave. E., Ladysmith, WI 54848

Pictures and stories of Roscoe and Evelyn Churchill's leadership role are available for viewing on the net at: www.protecttheearth.org.

Contact information for Al Gedicks, Gedicks.al@uwlax.edu or 608-784-4399.

Bits & Peaces

Green weddings are becoming increasingly popular by a growing number of environmentally conscious couples. Henk Newenhouse's 477-acre organic farm in Lone Rock, Richland County, is providing this service. Families come together in his unique wedding barn or lovely gardens where flowers are seasonal and food and decorations are locally made. Henk is a long time WNPJ member. *Wisconsin State Journal*, 3/11/07

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued four "red" findings recently – and two of these went a plant in our neighborhood, to the Point Beach owners, Wisconsin Electric Power Co. (WEPCO). Red findings signify the most serious safety failures. *Nukewatch*

During the Cold War, spending on nuclear weapons averaged 4.2 billion a year (in current dollars). Now, almost two decades after the nuclear animosity ended, the US is spending one and a half times the Cold War average annually on nuclear weapons. Key to revitalizing nuclear weapons is Complex 2030, a planned nuclear weapons complex "able to meet the threats of the 21st century." For more see *Sojourners Magazine*, April 2007 or *Nukewatch*, Spring 2007

Czech village 'vetoes' U.S. shield - The residents of a village in the Czech Republic have voted overwhelmingly to reject a radar station that would form part of the US missile defense shield. Only one of the residents voted yes, while

71 of the 90 eligible voters were opposed, said the mayor of Trokavec, 70 km (44 miles) from Prague. Villagers fear the area will become a military target. The vote was largely symbolic and has no legal power.

US, Britain and Greenland, have defense shield bases, and Washington wants more in Poland and the Czech Republic to complete the coverage. The Czech government is in favor of the plan, but needs the approval of parliament, where it has no majority. *BBC News*

Notice to those expecting Medicare someday: The Bush Administration intends to:

**Cut the Medicare budget by \$36 billion over the next 5 years; \$106 billion over 10 years

**Cap the amount the government can spend on Medicare

**Increase Medicare beneficiaries' Part B Premiums to \$93.50 (it is \$45 now). *Dane Co SOS Senior Council NL*, March 9, 2007

Mining news: While Wisconsin succeeded in pushing back advances by mining companies (see page 9), the struggle continues in vulnerable parts of the world. Several trans-national Canadian gold mining companies are exploring in the Arcatao area in El Salvador. The communities of this area that have just overcome the ravages of war. They are convinced that this proposed strip mining for gold, which utilizes a cyanide ex-

traction process, will destroy their reforested land, pollute their water supply, ruin their agriculture and ultimately make the land uninhabitable. Under the guise of stimulating economic growth, the Government and the mining company are using the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) established by US Congress to fund these explorations. For more information contact the Madison Arcatao Sister City Project, (608) 251-9280 or mascp@charterterinternet.net.

BP, formerly known as British Petroleum will give the University of California \$500m for building a laboratory where university scientists and BP researchers will work on developing biofuels from biomass - probably using an Asian grass. The process will use genetically modified organisms, both to promote the growth of the biomass and to turn it into fuel. Creating biofuels will most likely mean altering the DNA of plants and animals which risks poisoning the food supply, and upsetting natural balances science still does not fully understand. The process would necessarily spell further disaster for rural people in Indonesia and the Amazon, where forests would be cut to grow the grass the project anticipates using. Aside from corrupting the independence of university research, this liaison between university and corporation distracts from finding real solutions to the problems of global warming and energy. The BP deal will create a focus mainly on solutions that benefit BP. *Daily Planet*, Berkeley and *summary of a Sierra Club Forum*.

WNPJ offers opportunity to learn about the popular movements in Venezuela and Bolivia

Through a special grant from WNPJ member Fred Brancel, we are able to offer a trip to **one current WNPJ member** to Venezuela and Bolivia, October 20 - November 1, 2007, as a WITNESS FOR PEACE delegate.

To learn more about the focus of this trip and about Witness for Peace, go to: http://www.witnessforpeace.org/travel/Fliers/BenBol2007_gail.pdf.

Applications can be obtained from WNPJ, 122 State St., #402, Madison WI 53703, or from the website, www.wnpj.org. **Applications due May 15, 2007**. For information call WNPJ (608)250-9240.

Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice

Name _____	Type of Membership (Check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35/yr <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$45/yr <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed Income/War Tax Resister \$15/yr <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$52/yr (\$1/wk) <input type="checkbox"/> A-dollar-a-day for peace \$365/yr <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$____/yr*** <input type="checkbox"/> Organization without paid staff \$50/yr <input type="checkbox"/> Organization with paid staff \$75/yr ***You can pay monthly with Pay Pal online, see www.wnpj.org "Join Us" to see how.
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Phone 608-250-9240; E-Mail info@wnpj.org ; Website www.wnpj.org . WNPJ is a 501c3 organization and donations are tax-deductible.	

Nominations for 2007 WNPJ Peacemaker of the Year Award

WNPJ is accepting nominations for its 2007 Peacemaker of the Year award. Any WNPJ member can make a nomination, and awards will be presented in three categories; youth, adult, and senior. Our Peacemaker Award committee will be making their decision based on peace and justice accomplishments over this past year, and with so many worthy peacemakers across the state, this won't be an easy task! All nominees will be honored at the annual Fall WNPJ Assembly on October 6th.

Use the form below to send in your nominations. Make additional copies as needed. Feel free to re-nominate one of your choices from a prior year. This form is also available on our web site (www.wnpj.org). All peace activists in Wisconsin are potential nominees, with the exception of those who presently serve on the WNPJ Executive Committee (see www.wnpj.org for this listing) or politicians who are currently in office. Nominations are due each year, on July 31. Previous recipients include:

2000 Michael Rebholz - Steve Watrous - Jan Provost **2001** Dana Churness - Bonnie Urfer - Everett Refior **2002** Angela Rose - Mike Miles - Lee Brown **2003** Emily Siekierski - Lynn Larson - June Kjome **2004** Bob Poeschl - Gail Vaughn - Tom Arbogast **2005** Sarah Santiago/Elise Muldro - Guy Wolf - W.C. 'Andy' Anderson **2006** Xiong Xong - Janet Parker - Fred Brancel/Del Schwaller

Periodically we present Lifetime Achievement Awards determined by the WNPJ Executive Committee. Multiple and frequent nominations are a factor in this decision.

Previous Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients are Sam Day (2000), Clarence Kailin and Frank Zeidler (2002), Jim Missey (2003), Nan Cheney and Midge Miller (2004), Maureen McDonnell, OP(2005), and George Paz Martin (2006).

NOMINATION FOR 2007 WISCONSIN PEACEMAKER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Age Category: Youth (under 30) _____ Adult (31-65) _____ Senior (over 65) _____

Name of Nominee: _____

Address of Nominee: _____ City _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number of Nominee: _____

Attach a description of the peace and justice work done by this peace and justice Nominee, focusing on the work done this last year, and a brief biography:

Name, address, e-mail, and phone number of person making this nomination: _____

SEND NOMINATIONS BY JULY 31st to: WNPJ, 122 State Street, #402, Madison, WI 53703. Thank you



122 State Street #402
Madison, WI 53703
info@wnpj.org
www.wnpj.org

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(New Members underlined)

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 Anothoth Community Farm–Luck
 Beloit Monthly Meeting of Friends
 Benedict Center–Milwaukee
 Benedictine Women of Madison
 Bread for the World – Appleton
 Cable United Church of Christ
 Campus Anti-war Network – Madison
 Candlelight Coalition–Wauwatosa
 Casa Maria–Milwaukee
 Center Advocates–Milwaukee
 Church Women United of Wisconsin
 Churches Center for Land and People–
 Sinsinawa
 Citizens Energy Co-op of
 Wisconsin–Waupaca
 Citizens for Global Solutions–Madison
 & Whitewater
 Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger–
 Merrimac
 Coalition for Wisconsin Health–
 Madison
 Code Pink–Boscobel
 Colombia Support Network–Madison
 Community Action on Latin America–
 Madison
 Concerned Citizens of Newport, Inc.–
 Wisconsin Dells
 Concerned Citizens of Stevens Point
 Congregation of St Agnes, Justice Peace
 & Ecology Office–Fond du Lac
 Coulee Progressives–LaCrosse
 Dale Heights Presbyterian Church
 Outreach Committee–Madison
 DeKalbIL Interfaith Network for P&J
 Dells Country Progressive Voices
 Democratic Socialists of America–
 Madison Area
 Driftless Community Radio–Viroqua
 East Timor Action Network–Madison
 ELCA Greater Milwaukee Synod–Peace
 and Justice Committee
 Families and Friends for Social
 Responsibility - Madison
 Family Farm Defenders–Madison
 Fellowship of Reconciliation–Fox
 Valley Chapter
 First Cong Church, UCC–Menomonie
 First United Methodist Church, Church
 and Society Committee–Madison
 Fox Valley Peace Coalition–Menasha
 Franciscan Sisters of Mary–Madison
 Franciscan Spirituality Center–La Crosse
 Global Connections Team:ELCA
 GLSEN–South Central Wisconsin
 Grandmothers for Peace–Northland
 Chapter
 Great Lakes Region Social Concerns
 Network
 Habiba Foundation–Janesville
 Hill Connections–Chaseburg
 Interfaith Justice and Peace Group–La
 Crosse
 International Committee for the Peace
 Council–Madison
 Juneau County Peace Committee–
 Mauston
 Kickapoo Peace Circle–Viroqua
 Lakeshore Peacemakers–Manitowoc
 Loaves and Fishes Catholic Worker–
 Duluth
 Lutheran Office of Justice and Peace–
 LaCrosse
 Madison Arcatao Sister City Project
 Madison Area Peace Coalition
Madison Buddhist Peace Fellowship
 Madison Campaign for Free Speech TV
 Madison East Students for Peace and
 Freedom
 Madison Fair Trade Action Alliance
 Madison Friends of International
 Students
 Madison Friends Meeting–Peace &
 Social Concerns Committee
 Madison Hours Co-op
 Madison Infoshop
 Madison Mennonite Church
 Madison/Rafah Sister City Project
 Madison Unitarian YouthMUUYACM
 Madison-area Urban Ministry
 Madison Women for Peace:CODEPink
 Madtown Liberty Players
 Mary House–Wisconsin Dells
 Midwest Renewable Energy Association–
 Custer
 Money, Education and Prisons–Madison
 National Campaign for Nonviolent
 Resistance–Madison
 National Peace Foundation–Eau Claire
 North Country Fair Trade–St.Paul
 Northwoods Peace Fellowship–Wausau
 Nukewatch–Luck
 PAX Christi–Madison
 Peace Action Wisconsin–Milwaukee
 Peace Economics–Madison
 Peace North–Hayward
 Peace Seekers of Washington County
 People for Peace–Waupaca
 Peregrine Productions–Madison
 Physicians for Social Responsibility–
 Madison
 Plowshare Center–Waukesha
 Portage Area Peace Seekers
 Preserve Our Climate–Madison
 Progressive Forum–Washington Island
 Progressive Voices–Baraboo
 Racine Coalition for Peace and Justice
 Racine Dominicans Justice Outreach
 Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative–
 Madison
Rapids Citizens for Peace - Wisconsin
 Rapids
 Red Cedar Peace Initiative–Menomonie
 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers of
 Wisconsin–Madison
 Rock County Citizens for Peace–
 Janesville
 Rockford Peace and Justice Action–IL
 Rock Ridge Community–Dodgeville
 Rock Valley Fellowship of
 Reconciliation–Janesville
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 St. Norbert Abbey Justice and Peace
 Committee–DePere
 St. Norbert College, Peace & Justice
 Center–DePere
 Sauk Prairie Area Peace Council
 School of Americas Watch–Madison
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 Green Bay
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 Society–Madison
 Socialist Party of Wisconsin–Milw.
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 –Madison
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 Justice
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 Madison
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 & Chapter 80, Lake Superior Area
 Watertown Peace and Democracy
 Waukesha Catholic Worker
 WAVE Educational Fund–Milwaukee
 Waysmeet Quaker Center–Richland
 Center
 Winds of Peace–Projects in Vietnam
 Winnebago Peace and Justice Center–
 Oshkosh
 Wisconsin Citizen Action
 Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic
 Violence
 Wisconsin Coalition to Normalize
 Relations with Cuba–Milwaukee
 Wisconsin Community Fund
 Wisconsin Coordinating Council on
 Nicaragua
 Wisconsin Council of Churches–Peace
 & Justice Committee
 Wisconsin Democracy Campaign
 Wisconsin Greens
 WI Impeachment/Bring Our Troops
 Home–Madison
 Wisconsin Resources Protection
 Council–LaCrosse
 Wisconsin Women's Network
 Women's International League for Peace
 and Freedom–Madison
 Women in Black–Eau Claire
 Yahara Friends Meeting–Monona
 YWCA GALAXY/RAY–La Crosse