

# NETWORK NEWS



## MAJORITY OF CITIZENS SUPPORT PATH TO LEGALIZATION FOR NATION'S UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

by Roberto Rodriguez

Is anyone old enough to remember the expression: "Go Back to Africa?" Can anyone remember when the lynchings of Blacks, Asians and the hunting down of American Indians and Mexicans were commonplace? Does anyone remember when Jews – during the time of the Holocaust – were turned away at this nation's borders? How about the Chinese Exclusion Act? Can anyone remember when the Irish, German and Italians were not welcome here?

This country has had a long and sordid history of xenophobia and scapegoat politics, which brings us to the current immigration debate. Prior to it, I had not been aware that illegal aliens were the number one threat to the security of the

most powerful nation on earth and the cause of the majority of the nation's many problems.

It's amazing how we are all easily manipulated and corralled. All we seem to need is for someone to whip up the frenzy to permit the immoral discrimination and segregation of human beings and to permit the mass incarceration of Japanese American citizens or to conduct an Operation Wetback to send Mexican American citizens "back to where they came from." Not too long ago, it was George Wallace. Yesterday it was Pat Buchanan. Today it is the Three Amigos: CNN's Lou Dobbs, and Republican presidential hopefuls, Tom Tancredo and Duncan Hunter.

And it is amazing the lengths that people who have been formerly targeted by demagogues will go to, to prove their Americanism. They seemingly scream the loudest when a new group has been targeted. One can hear the catharsis – an incredible sigh of relief – when they are able to point a finger at another group.

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## BORDERLAND; REFLECTIONS BY JOHN HEID

*John Heid is participating in the Borderlands Witness Drive this summer, a month-long project of the Christian Peacemaker Team (CPT). The 3,000-mile journey is one of listening to migrants and advocacy groups along the border and throughout the south-eastern U.S. on the way to Capitol Hill. There, the group intends to bring the human face of migration to the halls of Congress where humane immigration reform is yet to be realized and legislated.*

"Esta alguien aqui?" "Is anyone here?" Volunteers from Tucson-based organizations "No More Deaths" and "Samaritans" comb the 100-plus-degree Sonoran desert daily again this

summer leaving gallons of water along trails and searching for migrants in distress. Upon approaching heavily traveled arroyos, bone-dry river beds with mesquite tree cover, we announce our presence with the query: "Is anyone here?"

By the end of June, 126 migrant workers had died in the Arizona desert. While the cause of death is listed as extreme exposure, the autopsy reads "U.S. border policy." The deployment of National Guard troops, the marked increase in U.S. Border Patrol and a network of strategically placed walls, fences, ground sensors and high tech surveillance towers, "the virtual wall," have effectively forced mi-

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*Borderlands*

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## LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIR

In April, the WNPJ executive committee came to consensus on adopting immigrant rights and prison industrial complex work as two new anti-racist justice campaigns, adding to our networking function and our efforts to end the war on Iraq.

The immigrant rights work is urgent and immense. Within the array of issues and groups involved with immigrant rights nationally and locally, WNPJ's role is becoming clearer, and you are a part of it! WNPJ can help peace and justice activists join in support of this growing civil rights movement and stand up for justice for immigrants.

Already three new member groups have joined the Network because of the campaign: Union de Trabajadores Inmigrantes, the Worker Rights Center, and the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice. What groups are working on immigrant rights in your part of the state? May we offer our support to them and welcome them to join the Network?

Our staff and volunteers in Madison have helped by publicizing a boycott of La Hacienda restaurant for non-payment of workers, providing a sound system for the major May Day rally, and joining a support network to respond if ICE raids return to Wisconsin – as is already happening in other parts of the country.

And, we'll be offering yard signs, a tried and true WNPJ tactic. Program coordinator, Steve Burns is creating signs that say, "Immigrants Welcome Here" in English, Hmong, Spanish, German, Norwegian, and Arabic. Each line is written by a Wisconsin immigrant or descendent of an immigrant. In September, we will be holding a press conference to unveil the signs and hear the personal experiences of featured Wisconsin immigrants.

This newsletter issue is focused on immigrant rights. Please read on, think about how we can make an impact, get involved in your community, and call us to let us know what we can do to help!

Janet Parker, WNPJ Co-chair

## WNPJ MEMBER ACQUITTED IN DC; ON TRIAL FOR READING THE NAMES OF WAR DEAD IN THE HALLS OF CONGRESS

Joy First of Monona was on trial in DC in the week of 7/9/07, for reading the list of war-dead in the US Senate Hart office building. She and others from the National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance were faced with a possible sentence of a 6-month jail term for unlawful conduct – however a sympathetic jury and convincing evidence from Capitol police that this was a respectful group, practicing their first amendment rights of dissent - led to an acquittal on 7/12. To read more about Joy's trial and statement to the court, see the WNPJ website calendar for 7/9/2007. To contact Joy: [jsfirst@tds.net](mailto:jsfirst@tds.net) or 608 239-4327.



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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## Immigrants *from front page*

This time around, illegal aliens are the target. They can't fight back or vote or even protest in public. And technically, they don't have a face. All the vitriol can be hurled against them without feeling guilty – just don't say the word Mexican and you can't be accused of being a bigot. Besides, you have nothing against brown people, as long as they're legal, educated, employed (just as long as the job is not too good) and can speak English.

Perhaps this exam will help us to determine the actual answer as to who is the cause of this nation's problems. Who is responsible for U.S. policies that permit: the spending of more than \$500 billion to wage an illegal and immoral war?

- torture and the violation of the Geneva War Conventions?
- the elimination of Habeas Corpus?
- the illegal wiretapping of its own citizens?
- war profiteering by Haliburton and mercenary armies
- (Blackwater) to flourish?
- the dismantling of affirmative action and the nation's civil rights laws?
- a tax system that favors the super-rich?

Here are the choices: a) illegal aliens b) Arabs & Moslems c) Blacks d) Mexicans e) Jews f) Gays & Lesbians g) liberals h) abortion-seeking women i) American Indians. While all these groups have been intermittent favorites throughout this nation's history, today, it seems that most Americans would choose option "a." (This option has been a favorite since the 1700s).

This means that if the United States puts up a 2,000-mile wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and if the 12 million nannies, busboys, gardeners and maids were deported, the Iraqi war – which is expected to skyrocket in costs to another \$1.5 trillion – would immediately come to a halt. If deported, the nation's sky-

rocketing gasoline prices would begin to immediately reverse. In fact, the nation's dropout crisis would also end overnight, enabling those who are remanded to the worst jobs in society to instead compete for the nation's best jobs.

Once these 12 million law-breakers are deported, no doubt this administration would direct the EPA, the USDA, the FDA, the Federal Trade Commission and the Labor Department to begin to enforce its consumer protection and food, drug and worker safety laws. (Why enforce them now when illegal aliens are making a mockery of our nation's laws?)

While it's true that illegal aliens are overworked, overexploited, highly overtaxed – and generally without human rights – we all know that if deported, Congress would pass Universal Health Care overnight. While it's also true that illegal aliens have for decades been pouring billions of dollars into Social Security and into Unemployment Insurance and Medicare, knowing full well they will never see a red cent – their precipitous departure, along with their windfall tax revenues – would also no doubt bring about their immediate solvency.

If these 12 million varmints (as John McCain refers to them) were deported, it would solve the U.S. prison crisis overnight. A recent study, by the Washington-based Immigration Policy Center, has found that immigrants are much less likely to be imprisoned than U.S. born residents of the same ethnicity. Another study, by the Public Policy Institute of California, has shown that immigrants are more likely to push up wages than depress them. Regardless, the departure of 12 million would no doubt make space for our own home-grown criminals, and it would also no doubt compel U.S. corporations to immediately institute a living wage for all workers.

Truthfully, the primary party responsible for all of the above problems is the Bush-Cheney administration. All else is diver-

sion, distraction and division. The urge to blame illegal aliens or anyone else for the nation's problems is but the result of the administration's politics of fear, hate and blame.

We do know that a majority of U.S. citizens support a path to legalization for this nation's undocumented immigrants and oppose a new bracero program. Neither do they want to continue to divide up human beings into legal and illegal categories. It doesn't have to be this way; a simple transnational labor agreement can change all this, though the drawback is that workers and their families would not lose their human rights, dignity or citizenship in the process. Who would we then blame for the nation's problems?

*Roberto Rodriguez, Column of the Americas, PO BOX 41552, Tucson, AZ 85717, XColumn@gmail.com.*



### AN ORCHID TO

**Senator Feingold** for trying new ideas to move Congress to action.

**The folks of United for Peace and Justice** for "staying the course."



### AN ONION TO

**The press** for repeating on cue as often as possible the word "al Qaeda."

**The Madison's Cap Times** for running an article on the front page on Hillary Clinton's cleavage.

# REAL ID: WHAT'S AT STAKE?

*By Stacy Harbaugh, Community Advocate, ACLU of Wisconsin*

The Real ID Act of 2005 was signed into law by President Bush after the 9-11 Commission report noted that terrorist hijackers of September 11 used false identification documents while in the U.S. As a part of the larger war on terror, the Real ID Act mandates a standardized state identification and drivers license system. This change represents an essential shift in the role of the Department of Motor Vehicles as an agency entrusted to ensure the safety of our state roads to one that exists to verify our identity on behalf of the federal government.

The changes to the structure of the DMV are unfunded and states have been left to find the money needed for increased staffing, hardware to scan identity documents into shared, national databases, contracts for private businesses to create and administer the identity databases and more. The creation and electronic sharing of data to verify our Social Security numbers, scanned birth certificates, existence of drivers licenses in other states, verification of our legal status and passport information all create an opportunity that is ideal for identity thieves to steal or even sell our personal information. This creates a threat to our privacy that only George Orwell could have envisioned.

Essentially, drivers' licenses are supposed to be issued by the state to ensure that motor vehicles are driven safely by trained drivers. For the federal government to impose these drastic changes and require drivers' licenses to be used for "federal purposes" is an abuse of

power. The Department of Homeland Security has been given the authority to define "federal purposes" without limitation. At this time, those purposes include boarding airplanes, entering federal buildings and nuclear power facilities. But the federal government is trying to expand that list even further.

In the summer of 2007, the U.S. Senate failed to come to an agreement on an immigration reform bill. During the debate, civil libertarians, privacy rights activists and labor railed against one amendment that would require all job applicants to provide a Real ID compliant identification card in order to gain employment. It may seem logical to immigration reform advocates to require jobseekers to prove their lawful status based on a Real ID database check. But this is another example of how the abuse of Real ID can start to spread into arenas of life that affect all law-abiding citizens.

While a Real ID repeal bill has been introduced in Congress, the hope to fight Real ID is at the state level. At the time of printing, seventeen states have passed some kind of resolution or law that demands that Congress repeal Real ID, gives permission for their Governors to resist implementing the federal mandate, or that makes strong statements in support of the civil liberties and privacy

rights of citizens that are violated by this de facto national ID card.

This June in Wisconsin, Representatives Jeff Wood (R-Chippewa Falls) and Louis J. Molepske (D-Stevens Point) began circulating a bill that, if passed, would set benchmarks for Real ID in the state. The bill would demand from the federal government that Real ID be fully funded and provide reasonable protections for privacy before our state implements the new rules. While the bill's wording is not as strong as in other states, and while the bill does not call for the full repeal of the Real ID Act, it is certainly a step in the right direction. The bi-partisan nature of concern with Real ID has even been detailed in a letter to U.S. Rep. Obey and U.S. Senator Kohl from Rep. Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan) and signed by many Assembly Republicans that demands full funding and a reconsideration of the mandate's deadlines.

The effort to pass anti-Real ID legislation in Wisconsin will not be without a struggle. After all, it was U.S. Rep. James Sensenbrenner who introduced the Real ID Act as a way to disrupt terrorist travel. But as citizens from across the state make their opposition to Real ID known to their legislators, we can support them in taking a stand against Real ID.

For more information about Real ID, lists of organizations that oppose it, and updated news about which states are resisting its implementation, please visit <http://www.realnightmare.org>. Contact Stacy at [sharbaugh@aclu-wi.org](mailto:sharbaugh@aclu-wi.org).



*Artwork credit to a Wisconsin Democracy Campaign volunteer*

## REPORT ON THE UNITED STATES SOCIAL FORUM JULY 4, 2007

By WNPJ member, Marc Becker, [marc@yachana.org](mailto:marc@yachana.org)

Ten thousand activists gathered in Atlanta the last week of June for the first ever United States Social Forum (USSF). The USSF adopted the World Social Forum's (WSF) slogan "Another World is Possible," and added to it the line "Another U.S. is Necessary." The week's events demonstrated the dedication of social movements in the United States to building a new and better world.

The USSF built on the two main issues that drive the WSF: opposition to corporate globalization and repressive neo-liberal policies that leave deep marks on marginalized communities. As with all forums, the USSF took on characteristics of its local host community. In the case of Atlanta, this was particularly notable for being rooted in a history of struggles against racism and other forms of oppression.

Lead organizers of the USSF (Project South and Grassroots Global Justice) consciously and deliberately organized the forum out of communities of color. It took time and effort and at points was a painful experience, but the result was one of the most participatory, horizontal, and grassroots forums in history. Skeptics wondered whether a forum could be successfully held in the heart of the empire, but rooting the forum in local community struggles provides a challenge and model for other forums to follow.

The forum began on the afternoon of Wednesday, June 27, with a massive march through the hot and humid streets of Atlanta. Two USSF banners and banners calling for "Indigenous Sovereignty Now" and "U.S. Military Out of Iraq & Out of Our Communities" led the march from the Georgia State Capitol to the Atlantic Civic Center that provided the home base for the forum. As with other social forum marches, placards advo-

cated for the broad range of issues that make up social movements-environmental, homeless, immigrant, women's, and many other issues.

Organizers assigned one theme for each day: consciousness, vision, strategy. The first two days began with roundtables on movement building and visions for another world. Breakout sessions were organized into three time slots, and spread throughout the downtown area. At the end of the day, participants came back together for two plenary sessions in a large hall in the Atlanta Civic Center. Parallel events, receptions, and informal gatherings were held in a series of 14 solidarity tents (Indigenous, Africa, youth, democracy, health, Palestine, peace and justice, immigrant rights, solidarity economy, and others). A film series and art events ran parallel to the forum, and concerts closed off each day's activities.

The six evening plenary sessions reflected the range of issues that are important to activists in the United States: Gulf coast reconstruction in the aftermath of the Katrina hurricane, militarism and prisons, Indigenous voices, immigrant rights, gender and sexuality, and workers' rights in the global economy. The National Planning Committee carefully crafted the plenaries so that presenters would reflect the range of participants at the forum in terms of race and ethnicity, age, and sexual orientation.

The forum ended on Sunday, July 1, with a Peoples Movement Assembly, renamed from the Social Movements Assembly held at other forums to more closely match a North American vocabulary. Preparations for the assembly began in regional breakout assemblies on Saturday morning which gave participants an opportunity to strategize

on a more local level and prepare resolutions for the following morning assembly.

The USSF plans to join the WSF in international days of actions against neo-liberalism at the end of January 2008, send delegates to the third Americas Social Forum in Guatemala in October 2008 and the next WSF in Brazil in 2009, and talk is of a second USSF in 2010. The forum was clearly a success. It provided a space for ideological opponents to gather and strategize around common issues. The workshops were engaging, passionate, and inspiring. Participants reflected the face of the United States. The forum pointed to the presence of strong social movements in the heart of the empire committed to making a better world. (See <http://www.yachana.org/reports/ussf2007/> for more of my reports and pictures from the forum.)



# IMMIGRATION 101 – MYTH VS REALITY

*compiled by John Peck jepeck@wisc.edu*

**Immigrants Don't Pay Taxes.** All immigrants pay taxes, whether income, property, sales, or other. As far as income tax payments go, immigrants pay between \$90 and \$140 billion a year in federal, state, and local taxes. Even undocumented immigrants pay income taxes, as evidenced by the Social Security Administration's "suspense file" (taxes that cannot be matched to workers' names and social security numbers). In 2002, this suspense file grew by \$56 billion in reported earnings, with \$7 billion in Social Security taxes and \$1.5 billion in Medicare taxes largely paid by immigrants who will never enjoy these programs. Immigrants who become U.S. citizens typically pay more in taxes than do native-born citizens because they actually have higher adjusted gross incomes than a typical U.S.-born family.

**The U.S. is the Primary Destination for the World's Refugees and Immigrants.** Of the estimated 175 million migrants in the world in 2002, the U.S. accounted for less than 1% or about 1.4 million, both legal and illegal. The State Dept. makes a very clear distinction between refugee and immigrant and only accepts about 70,000 refugees per year. In 2002 the largest number of refugees accepted into the US were from the former Soviet Union and numbered about 10,000. A refugee is a person who leaves their country due to a well-founded fear of being persecuted, whereas an immigrant is a person who voluntarily leaves their place of birth in order to migrate.

**Most Immigrants Cross the U.S. Border Illegally Through Mexico.** Around 75% of all immigrants have entered the U.S. legally with visas; of those that are undocumented in the U.S. two out of five have simply overstayed their original visas. Of those who enter the U.S. illegally, only about 40% cross the border from Mexico, yet, over 85% of all federal enforcement activity against illegal immigration is concentrated on the U.S.-Mexico

border. In contrast, there are 70,000+ Mexican consumers who legally cross the U.S. border to shop in San Diego every day, contributing \$40+ billion to the border city's economy (and \$3+ billion in sales taxes) each year.

**There Are More Immigrants Coming into the U.S. Now Than a Century Ago.** Actually, the percentage of the U.S. population that is foreign-born now stands at less than 12%, compared to 15% in the early 20th century. Prior to WWI, most immigrants entered the U.S. without documents, so lack of official papers is nothing new. Close to 68% of all modern immigrants settle in just six states: California, New York, Texas, Florida, New Jersey and Illinois. Just like today, a century ago immigrants were often concentrated in homogenous neighborhoods, spoke their native languages, and established private businesses and social organizations that largely served their fellow émigrés. They also experienced the same types of discrimination that today's immigrants face, and sought to integrate within U.S. society as best they could. Back at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it was Irish, Polish, and Italian immigrants (among others) who were called "drunk, lazy, and dissolute." Now this xenophobic stereotype is applied to others.

**Immigrants Are Here to Take Advantage of the U.S. Welfare System.** Most immigrants today come to work and to be reunited with family members, just as they did a hundred years ago. The majority of immigrants (70+%) who come to the U.S. are in the prime labor period of their life, and immigrants make up a large share of the U.S. labor force (12.4%). Moreover, the benefits that immigrants receive compared to the taxes they pay represents a net economic drain on immigrant households. In one estimate, immigrants earn about \$240 billion a year, pay about \$90 billion a year in taxes, and receive only about \$5 billion in public benefits.

**Immigrants Send Their Money Out of the Country and Are a Drag on the U.S. Economy.** Most of the income earned by immigrants is spent on living expenses in the U.S. For instance, in southern California where a typical immigrant day laborer from Mexico or Central America earns about \$8500 per year, just \$2600 (31%) of their income was sent to relatives back home. Foreign-born scientists and engineers make up 28 percent of all individuals with PhDs in the United States engaged in research and development. Overall, immigrants create more jobs than they fill thanks to their higher than average rate of business entrepreneurship and the multiplier effect of their economic spending. Whereas Europe and Japan are now suffering from an aging baby boomer population, the United States thanks to immigration has seen continued healthy growth in its labor force.

**Immigrants Depress Wages.** Immigration has widespread helpful effects on the economy and may cause wages to rise, because immigrant labor does not substitute for native-born labor, but complements it. Over the past two decades, studies have found that a 9% immigration rate in the U.S. actually contributed to a 2% wage increase for native-born workers. This is because foreign-born workers have different levels of education and training. Immigrants are 10.5% of the labor force, yet represent 23% of those without a high school diploma, 14% of all doctorates, and 30% of doctorates working in science, math, and engineering. Since they have a smaller share of high school diplomas and bachelor degrees, they don't compete directly with most native-born workers. Immigrants also often choose jobs for which there is a shortage of native-born workers – for instance: farm workers, domestic workers, nurses, and scientists. This influx of outside labor actually reduces economic bottlenecks and fosters domestic growth.

*For selected sources on Immigration see Resources.*

**Borderland** *from front page*

grants to abandon traditional trails and to attempt crossing vast expanses of desert. At the heart of the issue of border crossing lies the gnawing question: "How far would you walk to feed your family?"

26,000 undocumented people are currently in custody, the highest in U.S. history. Government and private detention facilities are being constructed faster than malls in the southwest. Families, including young children, are incarcerated at Hutto, a detention camp in Taylor, TX. Meanwhile, the largest facility at Raymondville, TX, where 2,000 immigrants are held, has announced plans to expand its operations. Squalid conditions are reported at this camp, a complex of large tents dubbed "Ritmo" by a local human rights attorney.

In one border city after another the refrain is heard: "We are one community." Public opposition to the proposed wall in the Rio Grande valley runs over 90%. We hear that no mayor, judge or sheriff on either side of the Texas/Mexico border supports the structure. People's lives are disrupted and destroyed on both sides of the 1,952 mile border by policy decisions crafted thousands of miles away. One Texan commented, "Decisions made in Washington, DC have tidal wave impact by the time they reach the border."

"The U.S.-Mexican border *es una herida abierta* where the Third World grates against the first and bleeds. And before a scab forms it hemorrhages again, the lifeblood of two worlds merging to form a third country - a border culture. Borders are set up to define places that are safe and unsafe, to distinguish us from them. A border is a dividing line, a narrow strip along a steep edge. A borderland is a vague and undetermined place created by the emotional residue of an unnatural boundary. It is in a constant state of transition."

Gloria Anzaldua, *Borderlands/La Frontera*

Current border policy is a fatally flawed. It is an illegal. It is inhumane. It cannot work because it fails to examine the root causes of migration and immigration...i.e. economic, trade, and environmental inequities. An effective, humanitarian policy must address the status of undocumented persons in the U.S., the reunification of family units, the working and living conditions of international workers within the U.S., and the *prima facie* reality that the global economy is forcing a choice between the slow death of starvation or migration.

The borderlands are under siege in a way that is difficult for my rural Wisconsin frame-of-mind to grasp: the check points; the drone of helicopters; the fear of friends "without papers"; of being seen in public; the neighbourhood ICE raids. Imagine sitting in traffic amidst a panoply of military vehicles and the frequent sighting of buses with bars transporting people from one place to another.

Walls, detention centers, and the militarization of the borderlands speak volumes about our national-social identity and ethos. A wall is a powerful structure and formidable symbol. If we, the people of the U.S. who already have the privilege of citizenship, really want this wall, then I propose we publicly de-construct an earlier symbol of our national attitude toward immigration, the Statue of Liberty, and recycle those historic stones girders into the wall along the socio-political line we call the U.S./Mexico border.

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[www.cptborderlandswitness.blogspot.com](http://www.cptborderlandswitness.blogspot.com)

**MY STAND**

By Philip C. Selz

*A tribute to Liviu Librescu, an immigrant, who survived the holocaust and saved the lives of 8 or 9 students at Virginia Tech this summer, and died from gunshot wounds.*

In the darkest times we've seen,  
I was sent into the camps  
As I smelled the stench of burning flesh,  
I knew my kin were gone  
Survival was my only thought,  
I knew I must come through  
But I didn't know the reason that  
my living must go on

And when the war had ended,  
liberation finally came  
And I grew to be a man and  
shortly after took a wife  
And we raised our kids in Israel  
and we did the best we could  
And we lived for those who died  
and worked to make a useful life

Then a teaching job came to me  
in America one day  
And I thought that building new  
young minds was destiny for me  
So I traveled to Virginia and I made  
a brand new start  
And I taught engineering in this  
homeland of the free

Now I hear the hallways screaming  
as shots are fired there  
And I hear the terror in the  
screams and understand their  
plight  
So I bar the door from danger and  
I tell my students "Run!"  
And as the bullets breach the door  
I know that I must fight

And in these final moments as  
my life is seeping out  
I think back over 60 years and  
finally understand  
My own salvation now makes  
sense as children flee and live  
I was saved that day to save this  
day, I've finally made my stand.

## TWO RALLIES BECOME ONE

by Judy Miner, WNPJ Office Coordinator

I was part of a powerful event this June concerning immigrant rights and democracy. I went to the Federal Courthouse in Madison at noon in support of an Agent Orange rally organized by Mike Boehm and Veterans for Peace about a lawsuit against Dow Chemicals and their use of these deadly chemicals during the Vietnam War. As I came up to the demonstration site, I found thousands of Hmong immigrants of all ages, from all parts of the state, at their own rally on the same corner.

I noted there was initially some hesitancy and distrust between the two groups, but by the end of the rally, there was hugging and thanking of each other. The link was made about CIA



involvement creating havoc for both injured parties - in Vietnam and in Laos.

I asked Chui of Milwaukee, one of the participants in the Hmong demonstration, how WNPJ could support their cause and she replied that it is important to get the word out about why the Hmong are in Wisconsin. She said when the Hmong first left Laos, they were told not to tell people in America about their involvement with the CIA. But she says they will no longer be silent. She feels alienation and disdain by some white Americans in her part of the state, believing they don't know why the Hmong are here. It is time for us to reach out and hear each other's stories, and offer support as we are able.



## WNPJ MEMBERS ORGANIZE AS “WOMEN IN BLACK”

The people standing on the Sauk City (Hwy 12) bridge each Wednesday at rush hour are citizens of Prairie du Sac, Mazomanie, and Waunakee and part of an international group called “Women in Black”, first formed in 1988. The umbrella group was recently nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Despite the name, the organizers of the Wisconsin bridge vigil emphasize that anyone - woman, man, or child — is welcome to join the silent vigil from 4 - 5 pm on Wednesdays. The silence is because words cannot express the grief for all the pain, suffering, and sorrow in the world today. The black is because of the mourning. The “Women in



*A hot afternoon on the bridge.*

Black” stand in solidarity with those in the world who suffer from oppression, violence, and injustice.

The organizers of the bridge vigil invite anyone to stand (or sit) with them, and they even have spare black capes available for spontaneous joiners! The longer the line of black is, the louder the silence speaks out. Come when you can, for as long as you can. Even one person's presence, week after week, will make a statement.

You can learn more at [www.womeninblack.org](http://www.womeninblack.org). The worldwide list of vigil schedules is impressive and heartening.

# Peace and Justice Resources

Check out groups with a vision for a better world. Some of the websites include news and newsworthy articles: [www.worldbeyondborders.org](http://www.worldbeyondborders.org), [www.globalsolutions.org](http://www.globalsolutions.org), [www.unausa.org](http://www.unausa.org), [www.wfm.org](http://www.wfm.org) (World Federalist Movement), [www.dwfed.org](http://www.dwfed.org) (Democratic World Federalists), [www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org) (NewsCenter).

PeaceMajority Report at [www.peacemajority.us](http://www.peacemajority.us) is a window on the peace community in America. You can find national and local peace groups, a calendar of their coming events, reviews of key peacebuilding tools, the most complete, up-to-date, Congressional scorecard for House and Senate votes related to war and peace, and a weekly newsletter with peacebuilding inspiration and ideas.

For those of you interested in the latest sociological terminology and constructs for analyzing social movements, see a paper on "Web Site Mobilization of Consensus and Action Toward Social Justice Issues" By Betsy Foss-Campbell, Marquette Student. One of the categories that WNPJ belongs to is "collective action/competitive framing." A copy of the paper can be obtained from the WNPJ office.

"Promoting Success for Migrants and Latinos", is the title of the WI Migrant/Latino Conference on Sept. 10-11, 2007 - Clarion Hotel near airport Milwaukee, WI. Call (715) 232-2793 or go to [http://www.uwstout.edu/outreach/conf/migrant\\_conferences-workshops@uwstout.edu](http://www.uwstout.edu/outreach/conf/migrant_conferences-workshops@uwstout.edu), for more information as it becomes available.

La Unión de Trabajadores Inmigrantes y sus miembros defienden y organizan a los trabajadores/as en su lucha por mejorar sus condiciones de vida y la de sus familias. The Union of Immigrant Workers and its members defend and organize the workers in their struggle for

better conditions of life and the life of their families. More information (in English and Spanish) can be found at: <http://www.uniondetrabajadores.org/>.

Las Américas Film Network, a film distribution company for Latin American documentary and fictional films with a social justice theme, organized a traveling film series on immigration that includes four films, posters, postcards and curriculum. They are offering very steep discounts for peace and justice organizations. The "Immigration Film Series" is now available for rent. More information at [www.lasamericafilms.org/ImmigrationSP07.htm](http://www.lasamericafilms.org/ImmigrationSP07.htm). Las Américas Film Network, 1717 Linden Avenue, Suite 1, Baltimore, MD 21217; [info@lasamericafilms.org](mailto:info@lasamericafilms.org); (410) 462-1410; Fax: (801) 340-7462.

The New Sanctuary Movement, [www.newsanctuarymovement.org](http://www.newsanctuarymovement.org), as an act of public witness, will enable congregations to publicly provide hospitality and protection to a limited number of immigrant families whose legal cases clearly reveal the contradictions and moral injustice of our current immigration system while working to support legislation that would change their situation.

In *Targeted: National Security and Business of Immigration* by Deepa Fernandes the author exposes the immigration-industrial complex. She follows the money of the DHS-funded companies that profit, and tells the stories of the immigrants who ultimately pay. As an immigrant herself twice over, Fernandes writes movingly about the experiences of "brown people in white countries," and shows that when anyone is diminished, we all lose." Seven Stories Press. Paperback [www.Sevenstories.com](http://www.Sevenstories.com).

"Ordering The Tides To Stop" is an article by Deepa Fernandes - June 11, 2007 on the now defunct immigration bill and our immigration policies in

general. [http://www.tompaine.com/articles/2007/06/11/ordering\\_the\\_tides\\_to\\_stop.php](http://www.tompaine.com/articles/2007/06/11/ordering_the_tides_to_stop.php).

David Roediger's book "*Working Towards Whiteness – How America's Immigrants Became White.*" explores the murky realities of race in twentieth-century America. He charts the strange transformation of Jewish-, Italian-, and Polish-Americans. Basic Books, [www.perseusbookgroup.com](http://www.perseusbookgroup.com).

## Selected Sources on Immigration Myths:

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- National Immigration Forum. "Top 10 Immigration Myths and Facts." June 2003. <http://www.immigrationforum.org/documents/TheJourney/MythsandFacts.pdf>.
- Passel, Jeffrey. "Unauthorized Migrants: Numbers and Characteristics." Pew Hispanic Center. June 2005.
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- Porter, Eduardo. "Illegal Immigrants are Bolstering Social Security with Billions." New York Times, April 5, 2005.
- "Immigrants Don't Depress Wages" By Diana Furchtgott-Roth - The New York Sun, April 12, 2006.

## Bits & Peaces

During **Global Warming Awareness Day**, April 28, a number of programs centered on mass migrations of people from flooded coastal lands, conflicts over decreasing arable land and water sources, and how this impacts the poor of the planet. A British report identified global warming as a new source of war and conflict on our planet due to migratory pressures and competition for resources. *The Mobilizer*, May 2007.

**First LEED Gold High School in U.S. in Eagle River, Wisconsin.** The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) awarded Northland Pines School District with the LEED Gold certification. The Eagle River school became the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified K-12 school in Wisconsin and received the second highest of four levels awarded by the USGBC. The certification required that the school meet specific standards for energy and water use, clean indoor air, recycling of building materials and other factors. The high school was built at a cost of \$116 per square foot, 23% below the national median cost of \$150 per square foot for high schools built in 2006. For more details, visit <http://www.hoffmann.net/newsrelease.cfm?id=20070514>.

Four Christian pacifists called the **Pine Gap Four** are celebrating this summer after being spared prison sentences in the Northern Territory of Australia by their Supreme Court. Nearly two years ago, the four entered Pine Gap Missile Guidance System's 'Prohibited Area' to

conduct a Citizens' Inspection. Attorney-General Philip Ruddock took their actions seriously enough to charge the group under the 55-year-old untested Defense (Special Undertakings) Act. The **Pine Gap Four** were found guilty, but have been given only minor fines. The consequences, however, have been far-reaching. The **Pine Gap Four** conducted their inspection to disrupt the machinery of war and to draw attention to the missile guidance system located in the very heart of Australia. For more information, see <http://www.pinegapontrial.blogspot.com/>.

**WI Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) should enforce cleanup of explosives, according to Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger (CSWAB).** Increasing levels of explosives were discovered in the groundwater following the closing of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant near Baraboo. Groundwater from the site is moving toward Weigand's Bay in Merrimac Township, more than 3,000 feet away. High levels of contaminants (isomers of DNT) have been found in private wells in the neighborhoods of Windings, Water's Edge, and Dam Heights north of Prairie du Sac. Despite these findings, the WDNR remains unresponsive, arguing that an enforcement action is not possible because Wisconsin does not yet have a groundwater standard for all isomers of DNT. CSWAB is challenging the WDNR saying that state law authorizes any action that is necessary to protect public health and groundwater resources even if enforceable stan-

dards have not yet been established. For more information, including a map of Badger showing DNT detections, go to the CSWAB website at [www.cswab.org](http://www.cswab.org). Laura Olah, Executive Director, (608) 643-3124; [info@cswab.org](mailto:info@cswab.org).

**AMA Adds Trans-Inclusive Policies.** The National Center for Transgender Equality applauded the American Medical Association (AMA) for its vote in June to amend its nondiscrimination policies to include transgender people. AMA nondiscrimination policies already include sexual orientation. The new policies address a wide range of contexts, including discrimination against patients, medical students and physicians as well as insurance policy. To read the full text of the amendment, go to [www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/17621.html](http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/17621.html) and choose "Report 11."

**On June 20<sup>th</sup>, Congress narrowly defeated the McGovern/Lewis amendment to cut funding for the School of Americas (SOA/WHINSEC) by a margin of only five votes, 214 to 209.** The mobilizing effort was tremendous. Tens of thousands of emails, faxes and calls flooded the halls of Congress. Students, clergy, union members, and veterans traveled to DC and spoke in hundreds of Congressional offices to communicate clearly - that there is no room for institutions like the SOA. **SOA/WHINSEC will be closed!** To get involved, contact [soawmadison@hotmail.org](mailto:soawmadison@hotmail.org).



Peace

**Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Contact Person for Organization Membership \_\_\_\_\_  
 The main focus for my/our peace and justice effort is: \_\_\_\_\_

**Type of Membership (Check one)**

- Individual \$35/yr
- Family \$45/yr
- Fixed Income/War Tax Resister \$15/yr
- Sustaining \$52/yr (\$1/wk)
- A-dollar-a-day for peace \$365/yr
- Benefactor \$\_\_\_\_\_/yr\*\*\*
- Organization without paid staff \$50/yr
- Organization with paid staff \$75/yr

\*\*\*You can pay monthly with PayPal online, see [www.wnpj.org](http://www.wnpj.org) "Join Us" to see how.

Send completed form to: **Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice**  
 122 State Street, #402  
 Madison, WI 53703

Phone 608-250-9240; E-Mail [info@wnpj.org](mailto:info@wnpj.org); Website [www.wnpj.org](http://www.wnpj.org). WNPJ is a 501c3 organization and donations are tax-deductible.

**REPORT FROM THE WNPJ OFFICE**

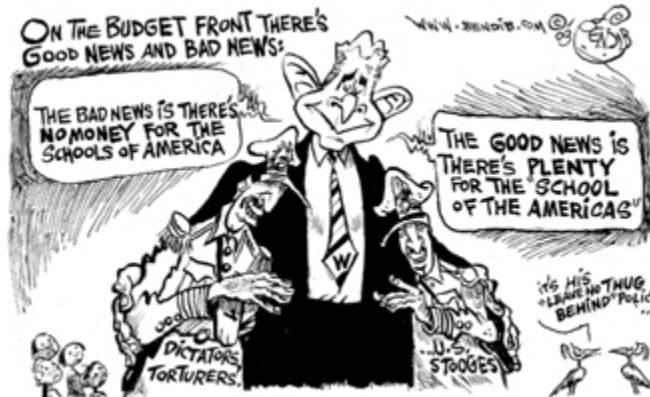
*From Judy Miner, Office Coordinator*

**The volunteers working for WNPJ have been active this summer** – and we thank them so much for their efforts: Karin Sandvik, Joy First and Janet Parker for tabling at the Farmers Market; Terry Tinkle working on the Climate Change committee; Connie Mudore and Dave Nordstrom have helped edit grants; Christy Hranek, Barb Boehme and Dorothy Gosting tabled at the Juneteenth event; Laura Negronida, Mary Beth Schlagheck and others are organizing for the October 27<sup>th</sup> anti-war demonstration in Chicago; Steve Ringwood has offered computer advice; Vicki Berenson is working on a new version of the Peacemaker brochure; and thanks to 40 volunteers at the Pancakes for Peace Fundraiser at the Energy Fair!

**Mark on your calendar the WNPJ Fall Assembly, October 6<sup>th</sup>, in Racine.** Watch for registration materials and program in the mail early September.

Also, make your plans now to attend the **Regional UFPJ Anti-War Demonstration in Chicago, October 27<sup>th</sup>!** Watch [www.wnpj.org](http://www.wnpj.org) to learn more as plans and transportation options develop.

**Congratulations to Steve Burns, program coordinator for WNPJ!** He was elected to the Steering Committee of United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) at the national meeting in Chicago at the end of June. UFPJ is the largest national peace group in the country, with over 1,400 member groups – representing local and national organizations. The UFPJ steering committee has representatives from 14 of these local groups...and Steve will be there to add the voice of Wisconsin to this national decision-making body.





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**WNPJ ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS**  
(New Members in bold)

Alliance for Animals–Madison  
ACLU - Madison  
Anathoth 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 Coalition for Worker  
Justice - Madison**  
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  
Saint Bede Monastery–Eau Claire  
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  
School Sisters of Notre Dame–Elm  
Grove  
SEIU District 1199W–Madison  
Sinsinawa Dominicans–River Falls, IL  
Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi–  
Milwaukee  
Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross–  
Green Bay  
Sisters of St. Joseph, TOSF  
Sisters of the Divine Savior–Milwaukee  
Social Justice Council, First Unitarian  
Society–Madison  
**Social Justice Center - Madison**  
Socialist Party of Wisconsin–Milw.  
Socialist Party of WI–So. Central Local  
–Madison  
SOS Senior Council–Madison  
South Central Federation of Labor,  
AFL-CIO–Madison  
Southern Lakes Citizens for Peace–  
Elkhorn  
SW Grassroots Citizens for Peace–  
Dodgeville  
The Madison Institute  
**Union de la Trabajadores  
Inmigrantes - Madison**  
United Methodist Federation for Social  
Action, WI Chapter  
United Nations Association–Dane Co &  
Milwaukee Chapters & Wisconsin  
Division  
UW-Milwaukee Peace Studies Program  
UW-Platteville Students for Peace and  
Justice  
University United Methodist Church–  
Madison  
Veterans for Peace–Chapter 25, Madison  
& 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  
**Workers' Rights Center Board -  
Madison**  
Yahara Friends Meeting–Monona  
YWCA GALAXY/RAY–La Crosse