

NETWORK NEWS



NON-VIOLENCE: A PLATFORM AND A WAY OF LIFE

Toward A Nonviolent Society In Wisconsin

By Jackson Tiffany

Looking at a partial record of nonviolence in Wisconsin during the last 12 months, I see applications that include civil disobedience, vigils, organizing, dialogue and education on principles and application.

Civil disobedience included focus on three issues: the Iraq war, the School of the Americas and nuclear disarmament. Individuals who participated in these actions include, on the Iraq war: Janet Parker, Steve Burns, Deb Mulligan, Bonnie Block, Susan Spahn, Cassandra Dixon, Bonita Sitter, Jennifer First, and Joy First. Following the School of the Americas action in November 2005, Fred Brancel, Jane Hosking and John LaFarge have returned home from their prison sentences. For an action at a missile silo in SD., Greg Boertje-Obed and Gary Walli are serving prison sentences. To reach them by mail, write to Greg Boertje-Obed #08052-016 or Gary Walli #92108-020 at Duluth Federal Prison Camp, FPC PO Box 1000, Duluth, MN, 55814.

Twenty nine weekly peace vigils met on street corners across the state from Park Falls to Janesville. While not as dramatic as civil disobedience, reactions of hostility, studied avoidance and warm support are at times encountered. One conversation with an opponent who was at first highly critical of the vigil, after 10 minutes of dialogue said, "I'm for peace too" then walked away.

Nonviolence, broadly defined, can be seen at work in the growth of the WNPJ to 157 member organizations. Our com-

mitment to nonviolence provides a context of confidence that we have a community where our diverse member organizations can build a network while addressing difficult and controversial issues. The 42 referenda to bring the troops home from Iraq, 34 of which were approved by voters, are another form of nonviolent action.

At least seventeen educational workshops or training sessions were conducted in the state during 2006 on topics related to nonviolence and peacemaking. Nine of those were on nonviolent communication.

The number two goal in the WNPJ peace and justice platform is A Nonviolent Society. The description of this plank was broadly inclusive with concern for a peaceful way of life for all our citizens including an end to racism, poverty and gun violence. It advocated practical knowledge and application of nonviolent action and dialogue. This focus on nonviolence can be a resource for work on the other four peace planks.

The experience of every generation of peacemakers includes some form of an old question asked of them: "what are you going to do about [_____]?" In the blank you can insert the name of opponents using violence on a small or large scale to dominate and control. Include Nazis, Communists, Terrorists or whatever is the current real or imagined threat.

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A Wisconsin Peace Platform

The platform has five 'planks', encompassing the work of WNPJ member groups and individuals, each one of which is essential to our mission.

1. International cooperation, justice and equality
2. A fair and sustainable economy
3. A non-violent society
4. A truly democratic society
5. A peaceable and safe environment

- To promote these ends we:
 - * Advocate, Witness and Organize to promote peace, mutual understanding, and build community.
 - * Use non-violent strategies of communications, outreach, legislative initiatives, and direct action.
 - * Undertake projects to educate ourselves and the community and to increase public awareness.
 - * Engage in community "grass roots" organizing, and political campaigns.

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This question is often difficult to answer on the spot. Preparation helps. Preparation based on knowledge of nonviolent alternatives helps more. Answers referring to nonviolence need documentation and historical knowledge to provide substance. A study titled "War Prevention Works" by the Oxford Research Group (www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk) documents 50 case histories where international wars and civil wars were prevented or resolved by nonviolent means of a wide variety. Realistically, nonviolence is likely to be more effective as a prevention strategy in the early stages of a conflict before full scale war takes control.

As we move into 2007, how can WNPJ members, organizations and individuals, make more use of the many forms of nonviolence, or peacemaking, to move toward their many goals including the goals explicitly identified in the Wisconsin Peace Platform?

Education and training certainly is part of the answer.

To help map the territory, here is a table of violent and nonviolent alternatives.

<u>Levels of conflict and violence</u>	<u>Levels of peacemaking and Nonviolence</u>
Problems	Dialogue
Discord	Forgiveness
Power plays	Nonviolent
Psychological warfare	Communication
Coercion	Problem solving
Oppression	Negotiation
Brutality	Mediation
Attack	Protest
Dominance	Boycott
Tyranny	Non-cooperation
War	Civil Disobedience
	Strikes

This list, based on the work of mediator Andra Medea, is not intended to have a one to one correspondence between a level of violence and the type of nonviolence opposite. To understand and practice nonviolence, any one of the processes in that column may be the appropriate response depending on circumstances. Ideally, the peacemaker would know and have skills in all of them. As a practical matter, the top five processes in the nonviolence column, are skills that every human should learn. They would be vital parts of what we would need to be able to do to make this a nonviolent culture. To the degree that drives toward dominance and oppression operate, the knowledge and skills represented by the rest of the nonviolence list should be widely known and practiced as needed.

I will use the terms nonviolence and peacemaking interchangeably as if they meant the same. Sometimes they do and sometimes they don't. When we speak of a nonviolent society, it would need to be a peaceful and just society, the result of peacemaking. When confronting violence with nonviolence, the picture may not seem very peaceful. Nonetheless, the principles of peacemaking would need to apply if the violence is to be transformed and the opponents take steps toward reconciliation.

One step toward understanding nonviolent direct action would be to see the video "A Force More Powerful" (loan available from WNPJ) read the book by the same title or play the computer game, also by the same title. The game, designed by Peter Ackerman, one of the authors of the book and video, enables

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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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vicarious experience with strategy, tactics of violence and nonviolence in a variety of scenarios. (www.afmpgame.com)

While “A Force More Powerful” provides historical depth to our understanding of nonviolence, the writings of Martin Luther King, Jr. provide operational insight that can help us apply the principles to new situations. Six steps for nonviolent social change were derived, mainly from “A Letter from Birmingham Jail”. A seventh step, awareness of conflict, was added to emphasize the importance of early intervention.

1. The starting point is awareness of conflict. The earlier we start, the easier it is to move the course of events away from violence and toward resolution.

2. The next three steps can be done in any order in the process. Step two, Information gathering, is essential. Another term for nonviolence is the power of love and truth. Without the truth we don't know what we are doing. We must learn who the decision makers are. We must engage them to bring about change and be clear about our needs and theirs.

3. While garden variety personal conflicts can be resolved informally, when the problem involves more than a few people and the stakes are higher, step three, organizing on a suitable scale, is called for. As more people are involved, more education on the process and the facts of the situation are needed.

4. Step four includes personal commitment, preparation and renewal for each person involved. It can enable persistence when the way ahead is uncertain and the danger is real.

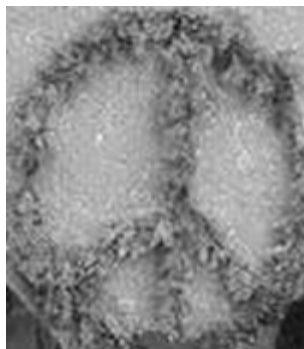
5. Step five, negotiation, if possible, would be the next step. If attempts to meet with the opponent are rebuffed, and mediation cannot be arranged, go to step six: nonviolent direct action.

6. Gene Sharp's 2005 book “Waging Nonviolent Struggle” lists more than 100 nonviolent actions. Martin Luther King Jr., in “Letter from Birmingham Jail”, is clear that the purpose of nonviolent action is to bring the opponent into negotiation. Then your communication skills and knowledge of the opponent can be used to work toward reaching a win-win outcome.

7. The seventh step, reconciliation, is not a defeat for the opponent but a way to resolve an injustice that builds community and realizes the intention of the agreement.

While the conflicts that divide humanity on the national and global scale may seem distant and difficult for us to work on, in our daily lives, in our families, neighborhoods and at work; we often encounter conflicts where we can make a difference if we have the knowledge and skills required. One way of learning that knowledge and acquiring the skills can be found in the nonviolent communication model. It is based on two-way communication skills involving non-judgmental descriptions of behavior, statements of empathy, recognizing the needs of each party and making the desired outcome clear.

While nonviolent communication can enable us to resolve ordinary conflicts, the methods of dialogue can be used in any conversation to gain depth of mutual understanding. These are among the ways we can work toward realizing a nonviolent society.

**AN ORCHID TO**

To CSWAB for tirelessly insisting that Badger Ammunition plant be safely dismantled by conventional wet demolition and for succeeding.

To the Coalition of Peace Groups of Illinois and Wisconsin who called on the Coast Guard and requested that they cease practicing with live ammunition in the Great Lakes. They, too, succeeded.

To Cindy Xia, a student at Central High in La Crosse Wisconsin, who was one of 48 winners in the 2006 national high school peace essay contest held by the United States Institute of Peace. More than 1000 students submitted essays on: “Controlling the Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.”

**AN ONION TO**

To the Correction officials at the Supermax who need a Court decision to tell them that they are engaging in cruel and inhumane treatment of prisoners.

To two out of three of the State's big businesses/corporations for, once again, avoiding paying taxes for 2003, the latest year available. The Institute for Wisconsin's Future included in the list Johnson Controls, Manpower, Kohl's, Harley-Davidson, Rockwell Automation and Marshall & Isley.

To the National Science Teachers Association for refusing free DVD copies of Al Gore's *Inconvenient Truth*.

WNPJ Presents the 2006 WNPJ Lifetime Peacemaker Award to George Paz Martin of Peace Action – Milwaukee

George Paz Martin, an African American at 60 years young, is a life-long community activist, a leader in the U.S. and international peace movements, a U.S. political and foreign policy analyst and a powerful speaker against the War in Iraq.

As a National Co-Chair of United for Peace & Justice (UFPJ), the U.S.'s largest peace coalition with more than 1,400 organizations, Martin helped lead the organizing for '04 Republican Convention Demonstration (largest political convention demonstration in U.S. history) and the '05 September 24-26 D.C. Anti-War Mobilization (including the largest grassroots lobby day in U.S. history with 550 congressional office visits), both with more than a 1/2 million people.

Visiting Iraq in '04 on a fact-finding mission, he personally witnessed the plight of the Iraqi people and our U.S. troops. A knowledgeable and compassionate presenter, George Paz Martin speaks truth to power across the U.S. and around the world on the "Reality of Iraq." Since then, he has spoken at almost every national peace demonstration in the U.S. and to numerous organizations and colleges, and has appeared on every major U.S. television network, C-Span, CNN, BBC and Democracy Now along with countless radio and television stations around the world.

Internationally, George Paz Martin works through the World Social Forum (WSF) movement to give U.S. past and current political analysis and collaborate with peace coalition leaders of dozens of countries on the war in Iraq. In Italy in '04, he spoke and participated in an international "Reclaiming Our United Nations" working group. In Brazil, at the '05 WSF (the largest international gath-

ering in the history of earth of 180,000), George Martin's speech against the War in Iraq was broadcast to more than 350 TV and radio stations across the U.S. In '06, Martin also participated in the European Social Forum in Athens and the World Peace Forum in Vancouver, British Columbia. Also at the '06 WSF in Venezuela, he was part of an international peace delegation that met with President Hugo Chavez.



In his local community of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he works against violence, access to hand guns, police brutality and racism. For the past 18 years, Martin has served the homeless, especially homeless veterans, primarily as a volunteer and also as staff and consultant to community based organizations and both the state and federal governments in developing, fundraising and operating both facilities and programs. He continues that work as a volunteer leader in Wisconsin Stand Down, a bi-annual event bringing hundreds of homeless veterans off the streets of Milwaukee for holistic services, now including our Iraq War veterans.

At 16 years of age, George was 10 feet away from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during his "I Have a Dream" speech. That was his 'coming of age' as an ac-

tivist in the Civil Rights movement, the Black Panther Party and the War on Poverty. At age 25 George had served on community boards of directors in the areas of housing, healthcare, credit unions, youth development, employment and training. He has also served as staff, consultant, steering committee or board member to more than 100 community-based organizations and as a consultant to U.S. corporations and the U.S. Departments of Health and Labor.

For a period of time, George worked in the corporate and entrepreneurial business world in marketing and promotions. His background in this area has given him skills to apply in promoting the cause of peace and justice.

Politically, George Martin is a national leader of the Green Party of the U.S., a founding member of its national Black Caucus, Wisconsin's alternate national delegate and a member of its International Committee. A former two-term co-chair of both the Wisconsin and Greater Milwaukee Green Parties, he remains a leader in both.

As Program Director of Peace Action Wisconsin, George works on a non-partisan basis throughout the state of Wisconsin organizing, training and speaking. He initiated the Wisconsin Bring the Troops Home Referendum Campaign and the Wisconsin Peace Voter Campaign, contributing to the '06 midterm election success and Mandate for Peace.

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Editorial on Torture

by Hildegard Dorrer

Some years ago I looked into articles written on torture. What I remember of them is the common theme that torture is used as a deterrent with the message that if anybody is thinking, acting, living like the person being tortured, then torture may also be that person's fate. The examples are multiple, but just to recall a few: In El Salvador, El Mosote, a village singled out for destruction and murder of its population because it was known to be a sympathizer with the resistance. Supermax, with its harsh policies of isolation, shackles, primitive cell conditions spread the message that there is no room for error in the prison system: conform, obey, or else; during protests people, young and old, singled out for clubbing, tasers, pepper-spray, ar-

rest to show that if you protest, this is your reward. Don't do it! Just like in our past slaves were sent to slave breakers so is torture used today for breaking the will of a people; a people to which many of us belong, with which many of us identify and are in solidarity.

During the Iraq war, another aspect has added itself to torture. As we watched the pictures of Abu Ghraib and heard about Guantanamo, the message of deterrence faded; what emerged was torture for obtaining information and something much worse: torture for punishment, for sheer hatred, for fun. It is difficult to imagine an escalation of torture, but it happened before our eyes. I believe that the violence of torture is of such

horrible, personal nature that all of humanity is degraded: yours, mine, the torturers, the bystanders, the leaders and followers, all of us. There is no justification; no just torture theory that can guide us through the morass. Our only redemption is to rise up and say no to it. We need to engage all our creative, non-violent energies to rescue us from the pit. We have made small beginnings: a Catholic Worker group visited Guantanamo; our annual protests at the School of the Americas; Democracy Now with Amy Goodman reminding us regularly of the human rights violations in the name of security. Torture in our midst and abroad needs to be included in our thoughts and actions. We need to stop it. Our humanity is at stake.

Action Alert

This letter below was sent to the Diocese of Madison. We include it in the Newsletter as an example of possible action with any religious or political authority, but also as a reminder not to forget the scandal of Guantanamo. -hd

Dear Bishop Morlino,

As concerned Catholics, we wish to share with you our concerns about the treatment of prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. At a time convenient to you we would like to meet personally with you in order to discuss our grave concerns over the U.S. policy in its federally funded and operated prison in Guantanamo Bay.

These prisoners, over 500 individuals from 35 countries, remain in a legal 'black hole', many with no access to any court, legal counsel, or family visits. Some have been held for nearly five years, and there is mounting evidence the 'detainees' have been subjected to torture and other forms of mistreatment. Evidence of this

inhumane treatment comes not only from the few prisoners who have been allowed to meet with lawyers and the fewer who have been released, but also from FBI agents and former military personnel who were assigned to Guantanamo. Only eight percent of these are considered to be alQaeda fighters by the US government. Forty percent have no definitive connection to AlQaeda or Taliban.

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, in a report of February 2006, stated, "the legal regime applied to these detainees seriously undermines the rule of law and a number of fundamental universally recognized human rights, which are the essence of democratic societies." The report concludes, "The United State Government should close the Guantanamo Bay detention facilities without further delay."

As American citizens and as Catholics we feel called to stand up for the rights of those prisoners being held unjustly and under such deplorable condi-

tions in Guantanamo Bay prison. We are moved by your request that we respect the dignity of all human life and oppose the death penalty in Wisconsin, and we long to see this sense of justice extended to all those in custody in prison facilities operated by our country.

We hope for the opportunity to meet with you and discuss what we, as people of faith, can do to bring justice to this situation. We hope you will have someone from your office contact us to schedule a meeting in the coming weeks. Our contact information is listed below.

In closing, we wish to thank you, Bishop Morlino, for your very considerate attention to our request.

With sincere and best wishes, we are,

Peter Leidy and Betsy Bazur-Leidy, Christine Reichelderfer, Sr. Maureen McDonnell, O.P., Leora Weitzman, Char Brandl, Mary Beth Schlagheck, Fr. Jim Murphy St. Mary's Parish, and Cassandra Dixon

Calendar

January 2007

1/9 Tues 7 pm Screening of "Turmoil" - Seeley. At Sawmill Saloon. Sponsored by Peace North. Good company. FREE admission. See www.peacenorth.org.

1/14 Sun. 8:30 – 11:00 am Madison Hours Pancake Breakfast - Madison. Wilmar Center, 953 Jenifer St. Featured are organic pancakes, oven roasted potatoes, orange juice and coffee. The cost is \$7.50 of which 1/4 Hour (\$2.50) can be paid with Madison Hours. It is an all-you-can-eat event and helps fund community currency in Madison, WI. WNPJ is co-sponsoring this event and partial proceeds will go to support the work of the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice. Come join us!

1/14 Sun 10:15 - 11:15 am Forum on Wisconsin Health Care Reform - Milwaukee. 1st Unitarian Society, corner of Ogden and Astor. There are three bills in the WI legislature calling for substantial reform of our system of health care. Each calls for expanding access to health care for most, if not all, the uninsured in the state. Advocates of these bills are traveling the state. If you need more information on the Forums, contact Kristin Settle 414-0481-4323 or see www.onewisconsinnow.org. Sent to WNPJ by Eugene Farley, esfarley@wisc.edu.

1/18 Thurs 7 - 9 pm Forum on Wisconsin Health Care Reform - Columbus. Place to be determined. For information, see description of the event on 1/14.

1/21 Thurs 7 - 8:30pm Veterans for Peace Presentation as part of the Pax Christit Monthly Meeting - Madison. Lake Rm, Regina Hall, Edgewood College, 1000 Edgewood College Drive. Pax Christi USA

commits itself to peace education and, with the help of its bishop members, promotes the gospel imperative of peacemaking as a priority in the Catholic Church in the United States. Through the efforts of all its members and in cooperation with other groups, Pax Christi USA works toward a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world. All welcome. Contact Trudi Jenny at 608-233-1898 or trudijenny@yahoo.com.

1/23 Tues 7 pm Screening of "Global Gardener: Permaculture" - Seeley. At Sawmill Saloon. Sponsored by Peace North. Good company. FREE admission. See www.peacenorth.org.

1/24 Wed 7 pm "The War on Drugs: A Failed War in Need of an Exit Strategy," presentation by David Liners - Racine. Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church, 625 College Avenue. Information: Wayne Johnson, 262-639-7149. From Dick Kinch at dkinch@rootcom.net or RacinePeace@yahoo.com.

1/25 Thurs 6 pm "War and the Soul," presentation by Ed Tick - Parkside. UW-Parkside Union Cinema. Dr. Tick, an authority on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, will also conduct a workshop during the day at Parkside. Information: 262-595-2312. From Dick Kinch at dkinch@rootcom.net or RacinePeace@yahoo.com.

1/30 Tues 8:30 am Trial for Civil Disobedience - Milwaukee. Municipal Court, 955 N. James Lovell, courtroom #1. Sr. Virgine Lawinger, Dianne Henke, Margot Fuchs and Mark Peters were arrested on Sept. 22 as part of an anti-war protest on 3rd and Wisconsin in Milwaukee. For ride-

share from the NE and Fond du Lac, contact: Stella Storch at sstorch@csasisters.org.

February 2007

2/1 Thurs noon Rally/Vigil before the Trial of 7 Antiwar Protestors - Madison. Steps of the City-County Building on MLK Blvd. We'll be reading of the names of the dead at the vigil and it would be great to pack the courtroom too. Contact: Bonnie Block at bblock@charter.net.

2/1 Thurs 7 pm Final Screening of "The Great Warming" - Dubuque, IA. Rural Life Gathering, Shalom Retreat Center. What does global warming have to do with farming and eating? Why should people of faith care about climate change? Churches' Center for Land and People is partnering with Wisconsin Interfaith Climate Change and the Interfaith Council of Greater Milwaukee to sponsor screenings of "The Great Warming", a new 85-minute documentary film just released this summer. For details, contact Tony Ends at scotchhillfarm@wekz.net or 608-897-4288 (farm office); 608-831-9319 (CCLP - Wednesdays).

2/3 Sat 8:30 - 12 noon 22nd Annual Catherine Conroy Legislative Breakfast - Milwaukee. Alverno College. After the Referenda: What Now? The Death Penalty - Gay Marriage - Meet your state representatives and ask them your questions. Cost and registration details forthcoming. From: Wisconsin Women's Network at wiwomen@execpc.com.

2/3 Sat 10am - 12 noon Forum on Wisconsin Health Care Reform - Janesville. Place to be determined. For information, see description of the event on 1/14.

Calendar

2/7 Wed 6:30 - 8:30pm Forum on Wisconsin Health Care Reform - Beaver Dam. Place to be determined. For information, see description of the event on 1/14.

2/10 Sat 5:30 pm Socialist Potluck - "Report-Back from Amman, Jordan" - Madison. Wilmar Community Center (953 Jenifer St.) Report by local media activists who attended the Ninth World Conference and General Assembly of Community Radio Broadcasters. Bring a dish/drink to pass. Info? 608-241-2829.

2/11 Sun 2 - 4 pm Forum on Wisconsin Health Care Reform - Superior. United Presbyterian Church, 229 N. 28th St. East. For information, see description of the event on 1/14.

2/12 Mon Forum on Wisconsin Health Care Reform - Ashland/Bayfield. Place and time to be determined. For information, see description of the event on 1/14.

2/13 Tues Treatment Instead of Prisons (TIP) Lobby Day - Madison. At the Capitol. Contact: Sue Moline Larson at suelarson@mcleodusa.net for details.

2/13 Tues 7 pm Screening of "Charlie Chaplin's The Great Dictator" - Seeley. At Sawmill Saloon. Sponsored by Peace North. Good company. FREE admission. See www.peacenorth.org.

2/19 Mon 7 pm "On Fascism," presentation by Jonathan Olsen - Racine. Racine Public Library. Information: Wayne Johnson, 262-639-7149. From Dick Kinch at dkinch@rootcom.net or RacinePeace@yahoo.com.

2/24 Sat 9 am - 4 pm The Power of Nonviolent Love to Bring about

Justice, with Bonnie Block - Green Bay. First United Methodist Church, 501 Howe St. Part of the "Series of Nonviolence Workshops Sponsored by the WI Conference United Methodist Church Board of Church and Society, 2006 - 07." Register by 2/10. \$10 suggested donation, includes lunch. Contact Marianne@Wisconsinumc.org or call 608-655-3932 for details. Send registration and payment for each session to Karen Lamoree, PO Box 620, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

2/24 Sat Conference to Address Truth-in-Sentencing "Community Safety - One Size Does Not Fit All" - Madison. Edgewood College. Co-sponsored by MEP/MUM. For details contact Sue Moline Larson at suelarson@mcleodusa.net or Becky Young at becky_young@sbcglobal.net.

3/15 Thurs 7 pm "Another View of Iran," presentation by Bonnie and Bob Block - Racine. At a place to be announced. Info: Sonali Knotek, 262-639-5048. From Dick Kinch at dkinch@rootcom.net or RacinePeace@yahoo.com.

3/25 Sat 1:30pm - 6:30pm "Nonviolence Skills for Youth: How to Respond to Bullying with presenter Phyllis Burger (UW-Stout) - Monona. United Methodist Church, 606 Nichols Rd. Youth are encouraged to attend. Part of the "Series of Nonviolence Workshops Sponsored by the WI Conference United Methodist Church Board of Church and Society, 2006 - 07." \$10 suggested donation, includes meal. Contact Marianne@Wisconsinumc.org or call 608-655-3932 for details. Send registration and payment for each session to Karen Lamoree, PO Box 620, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

'Mic' Fans Celebrate Decision Clear Channel kills plan to pull progressive radio

By Judith Davidoff

The timing of Clear Channel's decision to keep its progressive radio format on the air couldn't have been better for Maggie Thomas. "Yesterday was my birthday, and that was the best present I got," said Thomas, who turned 45.

Thomas, who lives on Madison's east side, was one of thousands of local listeners who urged Clear Channel in recent weeks to reverse its decision to replace "The Mic" at WXXM/FM 92.1 with Fox Sports Radio on Jan. 1. Activists delivered a petition with 5,466 signatures to Clear Channel on Wednesday, and hundreds of listeners rallied against the move last week, with U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, Mayor Dave Cieslewicz and Air America co-founder Terry Kelly also denouncing the move.

Local advertisers also organized to show their support, and Clear Channel, in a move that is being watched nationally, listened. "Madison is really a microcosm of what could be taking place around the country," popular radio host Ed Schultz said this morning. "There is a mindset with the progressive format that it's shaky territory for advertisers, and it's simply not true." Schultz, whose show reaches 2.25 million listeners nationwide, said he was excited about Clear Channel's move and "how it all came to work together." "It's really encouraging to see listeners so passionate for the radio industry and to be so vocal and organized."

Activist Valerie Walasek, who spearheaded the petition drive, said she hoped

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Peace Light

Spiritual Activism: A Path of Wholeness

By Jean McElhaney, WNPJ member

Gandhi said: Be the change you want to see in the world.

Too often, social change activists become fearful, discouraged, angry, or bitter that can make people want to avoid them rather than join them.

In my own life, I have experienced a split between the psychotherapist concerned about the emotional well-being of individuals and the activist concerned about large social issues. I believe this split has paralleled the same divide in the larger culture. In recent years, I have been happy to discover a holistic path that addresses both individual growth and social change: spiritual (or sacred) activism.

So what is spiritual activism and why do I find it so helpful? Spiritual activism means working for social change from a place of spiritual vision and values. What I find most helpful is that it puts any social change activism into a larger context. It helps me keep perspective and helps me re-charge. It puts love at the center of the action, rather than fear, anger, or hatred. It combines inner and outer practices: prayer, meditation, rallies, and vigils are all of a piece. It allows me to integrate different parts of myself. It also reminds me that we are all part of one divine whole, so that I am called to an attitude of care and compassion both for myself and for those with whom I disagree.

Here are a few of the principles of spiritual activism formulated by the Satyana Institute (www.satyana.org/principles.html):

- * Transformation of motivation from anger/fear/despair to compassion/love/purpose.

- * Non-attachment to outcome.

- * Don't demonize your adversaries. Love your "enemies", or at least have compassion for them.

- * You are unique. Find and fulfill your true calling.

- * What you attend to, you become. If you constantly engage in battle, you become embattled yourself. If you constantly give love, you become love itself.

Blending spirituality and social change is not new at all. Gandhi's nonviolence philosophy and practice was deeply rooted in his faith perspective, as was Martin Luther King's and many others. In this country, though, the last few decades have not seen as much of this integration on a large, public scale.

I believe the time has come to turn this around, and I believe it's already happening. One bright example is the Network of Spiritual Progressives, formed by Tikkun. Local chapters are forming in Wisconsin. I, along with 18 others from Wisconsin, was inspired and moved by the Conference on Spiritual Activism they organized this spring in Washington, D.C. Many faith traditions were represented, including "spiritual but not religious." The NSP notes that the Right has misused religion, while the Left has often ignored or even put it down. The NSP perspective is that "A serious commitment to God, religion, and spiritual life manifests not only in inner changes but also in Tikkun: social activism and world transformation and healing." The conference included both time for meditation and time to urge Congressional Representatives and Senators to adopt the New Bottom Line for America.

The main idea of a New Bottom Line is to make love, generosity, and kindness, not just money, the benchmark for as-

sessing policy, institutions, legislation, and systems. The NSP has formulated a "Spiritual Covenant with America" with eight planks covering addressing health care, environmental stewardship, foreign policy, and education, and more. Please see www.spiritualprogressives.org.

The resurgence of spiritual activism is broader than the NSP, however. Issues of both Utne and Yes! Magazine this past winter featured articles about it. There are of course multiple web sites where one can learn more, as well as several books that I've found particularly helpful.

Following is a tiny sample of books related to spiritual activism for people who want to learn more. There are also social change leaders from all different religious traditions who have written wonderful books as well.

- * *The Rhythm of Compassion* by Gail Straub

- * *In the Footsteps of Gandhi*, ed. Catherine Ingram

- * *The Spiritual Activist* by Claudia Horwitz

- * *Brave Spirits, Rebel Hearts: A Spiritual Activists Handbook* by Brooke Shelby Biggs

- * *The Left Hand of God* by Michael Lerner

For more information or to inquire about workshops related to spiritual activism, preventing activist burnout, or nonviolence, please email me at jeanmcel@mwt.net. Also, you can let me know of any resources related to spiritual activism that YOU have found especially useful!

Bits & Peaces

“Bring Our Troops Home” ballot initiatives in Wisconsin, Illinois and Massachusetts won a 58-0 “shutout” Election night. Not a single referendum was defeated. Thirty-six legislative districts in Massachusetts, 12 townships and counties in Illinois, and 10 municipalities in Wisconsin ALL voted “yes” to resolutions calling for “rapid withdrawal” or “immediate withdrawal” from Iraq.

A tritium leak at the Kewaunee nuclear site on the shore of Lake Michigan has contaminated the groundwater beneath the reactor. Tritium is a radioactive isotope of hydrogen which is produced in the reactor core. Even in low levels it has been linked to developmental problems and cancer. Tritium leaks have occurred in a number of other States and Canada in the 2006. From Nukewatch, Fall 2006.

The Military Commissions Act of 2006, passed by Congress with lightning speed on Sept. 29, governs the treatment of detainees and legalizes the abrogation of constitutional rights by the Bush Administration. It allows evidence in court obtained by torture and abuse, it gives power to call anyone an enemy combatant, arrest them and lock them up, even U.S. citizens. Anyone who donates money to an organization deemed a terrorist group or anyone who speaks against our government’s policies could be declared an “unlawful combatant.” From the Mobilizer, Fall 2006.

The cost of immigration for a Mexican national: In order to cross the border legally, a generally poor Mexican person would need to have 1) a family already in the U.S. to receive them, 2) work, 3) a visa for \$100, 4) a passport for \$50, or, as an alternative, another type of limited visa for \$600. In addition it

costs \$200 to get an appointment at the consulate. From the Peace and Justice Newsletter of St. Norbert College, Sept. 2006.

Worker discrimination based upon their arrest or conviction record is illegal in Wisconsin unless the job is substantially related to the conviction record. But Madison area Urban Ministry (MUM), Voices Beyond Bars (VBB) and the Workers’ Rights Center (WRC) have been hearing from workers who face this kind of discrimination. “Substantially related” is often broadly interpreted, resulting in a large group of individuals who are trying to reintegrate into the community but are having door after door slammed in their faces. From Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice Newsletter, October 2006.

The disaster in Darfur is continuing. International aid workers find it difficult to access the region. The UN Security Council is not pressuring the Sudanese Government to comply with an already weak peace agreement. Two Security Council members have their own economic interests in Sudan. China has extensive oil investments and Russia makes arms sales. So far, no economic sanctions have been applied to Sudan. Pressure on Congress is needed to keep Darfur in the spotlight and to act on its behalf. From the Mobilizer, October 2006.

Political Robocall Harrassment was especially irritating during the elections season. The National Republican Congressional Committee dialed voters with “Hi, I am calling with information about [name of a Democratic candidate]...” Each call then bashed the candidate, revealing only at the end the NRCC. Hanging up was not a solution. They dialed again, up to 8 times.

Consider this statement: On 9/11/1973, the day of the coup in Argentina that put Pinochet in power, Henry Kissinger said: “I don’t see why we need to stand by and watch a country go communist due to the irresponsibility of its own people. The issues are much too important for the Chilean voters to be left to decide for themselves.”

Globalization? 1998, Monsanto and Cargill managed to get a ban on indigenous oils, mostly mustard, in order to create a market for soya oil, something never eaten before in India. India was the capital of edible oil production — mustard, sesame, linseed, coconut, wonderful healthy oils. Today, 70% of India’s edible oil market is dumped soya and palm oil. The soya is being cultivated in cutting the Amazon forests, and palm oil is being cultivated cutting the rain forest of Borneo. From an interview by Amy Goodman of Vandana Shiva, physicist and ecologist. See resources for her latest book.



Peace and Justice Resources

A Country That Works - In 2006, the average American household is carrying significant debt, has little or no money to save for retirement, and may or may not have health insurance. A staggering number of Americans are facing serious economic challenges — living only one illness or accident away from bankruptcy. In his new book *A Country That Works*, SEIU President Andy Stern argues that our political and social systems increasingly don't function and need major reform. He proposes a plan for a renewed America where work is rewarded; where everyone has quality, affordable health care; where our education system effectively teaches our children; where people can retire with

dignity and security; and where everyone contributes to making America great. For more information about the book, visit www.ACountryThatWorks.com.

Greeting Cards featuring the drawings of the children of My Lai as part of an art exchange with children in Madison, WI. Sets of 6 different drawings, in 5x7 inch recycled stock, with envelopes \$8.00; shipping and handling \$1.50 from Madison Quakers, Inc. PO Box 1461, Madison, WI 53701-1461.

Out of Iraq: A Practical Plan for Withdrawal Now, by George McGovern and William R. Polk. The authors write from their personal and official experience to propose a phased exit by June

30, 2007.

2007 National Green Pages, by Co-op America, includes eco-friendly, socially responsible goods and services from chemical-free furniture to no-sweatshop clothing, sustainable wood flooring and fair trade coffee. Co-op American, paperback, 240 pages, \$6.25.

Earth Democracy: Justice, Sustainability, and Peace by Vandana Shiva, physicist, ecologist, director of the Research Foundation on Science, Technology, and Ecology; in '93, awarded the Alternative Nobel Peace Prize, the Right Livelihood Award. In this book she writes and explains about an epidemic in India of farmer suicides.

Mic from page 7

Madison's experience would inspire activists elsewhere. "The other communities facing a similar loss of their progressive talk radio stations can do this,"

Walasek said. Boston and Cincinnati lost Air America programming recently and Gary Tipler, who also helped organize opposition to Clear Channel's move, said other cities are facing similar threats.

Jeff Tyler, vice president of Clear Channel Radio-Madison, said in a news release late Thursday that it reversed its decision after being "overwhelmed" by the outpouring of support for "The Mic" "from the public, some of our community leaders and some dedicated local advertisers." Tyler has said in the past that ratings for "The Mic" were sub-par and that some advertisers were leery of its programming; he stressed in the news release that pledges of advertising support from local businesses played a key role in the station's decision.

Barb Wright had a hand in that. She owns the Dardanelles restaurant on



Monroe Street, and actively rallied support for the station among advertisers in recent weeks. She said today that businesses and listeners have a stake in helping "The Mic" succeed. "It is essential that we have an informed electorate with intelligent debate on the issues," she said. "I found that, contrary to some opinions, the business community is ready to step up to the plate to ensure that progressive talk radio is not only sustained but will flourish."

Wright and Walasek said they are committed to help the station bring in additional advertising support to "The Mic." Tipler said broad support for "The Mic" emerged once there was a forum for it. "We've had people from Columbia County, rural Dane County and even abroad write, call in to the shows or show up at our events to air their observations and opinions," Tipler said. "It demon-

strated that we must stand up and take action to preserve the things we sometimes take for granted - free speech and democratic institutions."

"The Mic" is an Air America affiliate, carrying headliners Al Franken and Randi Rhodes. The station's other popular shows include Schultz's "Straight Talk From the Heartland" and the Stephanie Miller show. Miller's and Schultz's shows are part of the Jones Radio Network, however, and not Air America. Kelly, who is now the main financial backer for Air America, which recently declared bankruptcy, said Clear Channel's reconsideration shows that "community activism works and that if you get at it from enough sides and enough depth people still have the power to influence things for the better. "It is, he added, "a wonderful example of how real democracy works through grassroots organizing."

Val Walasek is a member of WNPJ and the Impeachment/Bring Our Troops Home Coalition.

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
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 Sustaining \$52/yr (\$1/wk)
 A-dollar-a-day for peace \$365/yr
 Lifetime Member \$1000
 Organization without paid staff \$50/yr
 Organization with paid staff \$75/yr

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; Website www.wnpj.org. WNPJ is a 501c3 organization and donations are tax-deductible.

REPORT FROM THE WNPJ OFFICE

From Judy Miner, Office Coordinator

It's Time for Your New Year's Resolution - Volunteer with WNPJ in 2007

I am "back in the saddle" at work for WNPJ, here in the Madison office, after being away for the past five months in Ukraine. I was able to work for the Network as a volunteer this Fall from Kyiv, aware of your work through e-mail - getting your events up on the website calendar (www.wnpj.org/events) and communicating back to the office for the weekly e-bulletin. The wonders of the internet!

My thanks goes out to Ilana Caplan of Mt. Horeb for sitting in here at the office desk 10 hours a week this Fall, getting the mail opened, thank-you's written, books balanced and so much more to keep the office going. Ilana will continue to support WNPJ with newsletter layout.

And thanks, too, to Steve Burns, program coordinator for WNPJ - who took over some of the other office coordinator duties, to make this leave-of-absence work!

I come back to the U.S. with a heavy heart - knowing the damage our foreign/economic policy has had on the rest of the world. The wars continue, the environment is still deteriorating, and justice is compromised on so many fronts...but, as peace and justice activists know - the only way to go... is forward - to work as hard as we can to change the course of events.

So, I'm resolved to begin this year with hope. I do feel the potential for change - because of all of you dedicated people!

Question: What do these people have in common: 1) the editor of this newsletter you're reading; 2) the person who keeps peace yard signs available at the Madison food co-op, and 3) the person who flips pancakes at the Energy Fair breakfast in Custer in June? **Answer:** They are all WNPJ volunteers, sustaining the work of the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice.

And you can be a volunteer for WNPJ, too. Look at yourself - see what you like to do, and have some talent for - figure out how many hours a week you have available - then, sign up today by contacting us by e-mail at info@wnpj.org - or by calling the office at 608-250-9240. We all know that a grassroots movement for peace and justice depends on each of us taking steps in our daily lives to make a difference. And you can volunteer from any part of the state...

With only two part-time staff members for a statewide Network reaching over a million people, we could not accomplish all we do without our valued volunteers.

Some examples of current WNPJ volunteer projects:

1. Working on one of the committees of WNPJ: - **communications** (web site, newsletter, photo gallery); **development** (grant-writing or event planning); **out-reach** (tabling at events in your community, or writing letters to the editors of local papers); **conference planning** for a state-wide event in the Fall.

2. Working on specific projects for WNPJ - such as the selection and presentation of the **Peacemaker of the Year**; or planning the annual **Walk for Peace and Pancake Fundraiser** at the Midwest Renewable Energy Fair in June.

3. If you live near Madison, there is always volunteer work in the office; making phone calls or bulk mail assemblies; you could volunteer to create a new position called the **volunteer coordinator!** Be creative and suggest something new you'd like to do!

WNPJ is making a resolution this year. We will keep track of the hours of our Volunteers with a special place on the website and acknowledge this contribution at the Annual Assembly in the Fall! So, **volunteer** and watch for updates!



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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
Bring the Troops Home Now Coalition
–Wisconsin Dells
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 Community Progressive Voices
Democratic Socialists of America–
Madison Area
Domestic Abuse Intervention Services–
Madison
Driftless Community Radio–Viroqua
East Timor Action Network–Madison
ELCA Greater Milwaukee Synod–Peace
and Justice Committee
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
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
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
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
Southwest Wisconsin Peace
Fellowship–Platteville
The Madison Institute
Under the Bodhi Tree–Janesville
United Methodist Federation for Social
Action, WI Chapter
United Nations Association–Dane Co &
Milwaukee Chapters & Wisconsin
Division
UW-Madison United Faculty &
Academic Staff, AFT #223
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
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Nicaragua
Wisconsin Council of Churches–Peace
& Justice Committee
Wisconsin Democracy Campaign
Wisconsin Fair Trade Campaign–
Milwaukee
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