

NETWORK NEWS



WHAT ARE THE COLORS IN YOUR WORLD? AND HOW DEEP DO THEY RUN?

From Marilyn Miller, Lutheran Human Relations Association

When the Lutheran Human Relations Association was encouraged to join WNPJ, one of the first things I looked for was some indication that this group was committed to an anti-racist, multicultural and inclusive identity. The Board was already entering the journey of this work by stating their desire to examine the issue of racism and their intention to invite people from cultures not as well represented to join the Board. At the first meeting I attended, a Madison based group called Groundwork and I had the opportunity to present material

and activities to open up the discussion about racism and white privilege.

What are the colors in your world? Recently, an associate shared an exercise she had participated in where people were asked to show “their world” by using different colored stones to represent the different people in their lives and those they interact with on a regular basis. My associate noticed that most of the people participating had little diversity in “their world” and asked her for almost all of her white stones, which rep-

resented European heritage peoples. I would not have been surprised if the brown people used mostly brown stones, the black people black stones, the red – red, and the yellow- yellow. Because we have all been taught well to stay in our places, and we do, for the most part. Incidentally, though she is of European heritage, my associate’s world looked very different from the others. This is because she has been on a wide “world view” journey from a very young age in

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Appleton, DePere, Dodgeville, Duluth, Elm Grove, Ft. Atkinson, Hayward, Janesville, Kenosha, LaCrosse, Madison, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Minocqua, Racine, Ripon, Sauk Prairie, Sheboygan, Viroqua, Wausau, Webster and Wisconsin Rapids were some of the 35 communities that spoke against the continuation of the war and occupation of Iraq.

YOU CAN'T SAY THAT

by Barbara Golden - Madison

A black female character in the Madison Repertory Theater’s production of “Permanent Collection” tells her black boss that “You can’t say that” in response to an article where he has called his white colleague a racist. This contemporary play, set in a museum, speaks volumes about race in American society.

“You can’t say that.” We can admit that racism exist, that disparities among whites and people of color are real—from graduation rates and earnings, to incarceration, but as the recent Geraldine Ferraro flap illustrates, we can’t say that racism has *anything to do with anyone*. It’s amorphous, existing some-

where in the ether, but not in our homes, our families, or our workplaces. It only exists in a world inhabited by hate groups. And we all know who they are.

The problem with this logic is that it makes us collectively powerless to do anything about the racism that infects our society. Jimmy Carter was laughed at when, as president, he spoke of the lust in his heart as being equally as sinful as the actual deed. I’m not suggesting that we all go around flailing ourselves like penitents on a march, but I do believe that the pendulum has swung so far to

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WNPJ EVENTS

This year's **WNPJ Steering Committee meeting** in Prairie du Sac featured inspirational luncheon speaker, Kathy Kelly (photo below) . The keynote address by Diane Farsetta, of the Center for Media and Democracy, was about the flood of government and corporate PR that dominates our media. Diane argued that we should view the media in terms of "communication rights", based on Article 19 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, (see www.un.org) which guarantees to all the "freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers." Three hands-on workshops helped WNPJ members sharpen their media skills. Gil Halsted, a reporter with Wisconsin Public Radio, led a workshop on media relations and writing press releases, Editors from the Progressive Magazine, Amitabh Pal and Andrea Potter, led a workshop on writing Op-ed pieces and getting them published, and WNPJ staff Steve Burns was joined by Bill Christofferson, an experienced reporter and political campaign manager and contributor to the blog Uppity Wisconsin, (see www.uppitywis.org) for a workshop on blogging and creating effective quarter-sheet flyers. More photos at our website.



A February 16th **public hearing** at the State Capitol in Madison chaired by State Senator Mark Miller heard testimony against the U.S. Department of Energy's proposal to spend \$150 billion refurbishing U.S. nuclear weapons production facilities, a program the DOE calls "nuclear complex transformation." Those testifying included Alfred Meyer, past chair of WNPJ, and Lee Brown, coordinator of the

Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibition Committee. If you would like to bring the Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb Exhibition to your community or receive a video of the public hearing testimony, contact Lee Brown at Leebrown807@tds.net.



"IMMIGRANTS ARE WELCOME HERE"

WNPJ has a **NEW** sign ready for Spring – for your yard or a smaller version for your window. We thank Sue Kummer, Stefania Sani, Janet Parker and Steve Burns for their work on this project. There are 6 languages represented on the sign: Norwegian, Arabic, Spanish, German, English and Hmong. To get your signs, contact WNPJ at info@wnpj.org or call 608-250-9240.



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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her life. It takes a great deal of resistance, intentionality and work to shift our "world view." But, even those of us who have been here for a while can learn some new ways of being, seeing, and doing.

How deep do your colors run?

Though segregation is against the law, we still live fairly segregated lives when it comes to deep authentic cross-cultural (ethnic as well as other life journey) relationships. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said, "Sunday morning is still one of the most segregated times in America." As a nation we have not clearly and intentionally acknowledged, apologized nor addressed the atrocities that have been and continue to be committed against all kinds of people here. The list is deep and wide. As organizations working for justice with many different campaigns, this is an opportunity

for us to take a look at who we are and who is still not included. Even with justice as the focus of our work, we can still function in ways that maintain systemic racism and oppression. And, I am willing to bet money that every justice issue we are working to address has a race related issue/context that still has to be confronted.

WNPJ's Board is making a commitment to address racism, white privilege, and other oppressions that divide us. The participants at the Board Retreat thought the work was a good start in August 2007. But, it was just that, the beginning of a long journey. We want to invite you to join us on this journey and expand the opportunity to continue this work with all of our member organizations and associates. By now, contacts of the 156 member groups of WNPJ will have received a Racial Justice Survey in the mail

and/or by e-mail. We invite you to have someone from your organization complete the survey and return it to the WNPJ office. We will use this survey to put together a workshop we would like to offer statewide with your assistance, support and participation. Our organizations and communities will reap the benefits of this work today and into the future. With intentional work, dedicated resources, and the willingness to be transformed, we will be able to say with integrity; we acted justly as we did our work for justice in the world. We look forward to working together and accompanying each other on this journey. Thank you in advance for completing the Racial Justice Survey and getting it back to WNPJ as soon as possible. If you need another copy, contact info@wnpj.org.

Marilyn Miller is a WNPJ Board member from Milwaukee – marilyn@lhra.org.

**AN ORCHID TO**

First United Methodist Church of Madison, its church council, and pastor for standing by its commitment to provide shelter to the homeless against the pressure of developer Fred Moh, who threatened to withdraw the free parking he had provided to the congregation on Sunday if the FUMC shelter continued.

To the voters of Brattleboro and Marlboro Vermont, for passing voter initiatives instructing their town police forces to arrest President Bush and Vice President Cheney, should they ever appear in town. The resolutions cited Bush and Cheney's numerous violations of U.S. and international law, and instructed police to "extradite them to other authorities that may reasonably contend to prosecute them."

To the countless faithful vigilers and protesters coming out and staying the course in whatever manner - against the war.

**AN ONION TO**

The Dane County Sheriff for reporting over 300 county residents to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), over 60 of whom have been deported.

President Bush who at the 5th anniversary of the war and occupation of Iraq, declared the event cause for celebration.

Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Michael Gableman, who benefited from dishonest and racially divisive attack ads against his opponent, Justice Louis Butler. Gableman refused to repudiate the ads, even after numerous watchdog groups and even many Republicans pointed out the ads were based on a dishonest misrepresentation of Justice Butler's record.

LOVING BEYOND BOUNDARIES: INTERVIEW WITH KRISTEN PETROSHIUS

Introduction and comments by LJ Haukeness:

Member of the Madison group, Groundwork <http://groundworknetwork.org/>

Groundwork provided a training on diversity and white supremacy at the WNPJ Board retreat in August, 2007 and has collaborated with WNPJ Board member Marilyn Miller to develop a Diversity Survey distributed to WNPJ member groups this Spring.

WNPJ's major campaigns this year on immigration, the Prison Industrial Complex and the Iraq war are each closely linked with racism. U.S. immigration laws today aim to maintain racial oppression and a historical white power structure's wealth at the dehumanizing expense of people of color, largely Latino; incarceration is for a disproportionate number of people of color, particularly in WI; the Iraq war allows the murder and colonization of people of color in Iraq while people of color here in the U.S. feel the effects of budget cuts most drastically.

All of these issues are intertwined and people of color are organizing around these issues in ways that may be difficult for white activists to see. The WNPJ Board recognizes this and is making efforts and plans for WNPJ and Groundwork to offer multiple anti-racism workshops around the state within the next year. WNPJ is a largely white organization and has the capacity for addressing racism through its statewide network of organizations. Groundwork is an organization in Madison focused on white people working for Racial Justice.

One way white people can work against racism is by supporting with love and passion the work of people of color. However, this is not easy, as white people have been taught to internalize superior-

ity and carry out racism, often times without knowing that it is happening. Kristen Petroschius is a white organizer working for racial justice in Madison WI. She is a member of Groundwork, as well as Operation Welcome Home, a group of mostly low-income and homeless Black men and their allies organizing around homelessness in Madison. I got a chance to talk with her about her work with an organization called Freedom Inc., a grassroots non-profit group that provides services and advocacy to low and no-income communities of color in Dane County. Their primary goal is to look at new definitions and solutions to end violence against women and children. They are centered in, but not limited to, working with the South East Asian community.

Kristen was working with mostly White social justice groups thinking more and more about racism.

"I began trying to figure out what people of color were doing in Madison. I didn't know! This is a common issue for white organizers and activists. I found out about Freedom Inc. and sent them an e-mail saying I am a member of Groundwork, what Groundwork does, and I'm interested in volunteering with them. Kabzuag responded and I met with her and True. I was putting out my politics and telling them where I am coming from. They agreed with what I was saying. They also knew another member of Groundwork, Laura McNeil, and they trusted her. These were the things that helped begin our relationship and our work together.

I had recently read the book Uprooting Racism by Paul Kivel and as I was working with Freedom Inc. I kept thinking of one of the stories in the book about a white woman who began working with an Indigenous group and didn't say much for something like 3 years. She just showed up consistently and listened. She slowly developed a trusting relationship with the group and at the time, had been working with the group for something like 15 years.

I began working with the boys group which is a space for South East Asian mostly teenagers to develop leadership and talk about what is going on in their lives. I went for 6 months to a year -and just showed up. I didn't say much. It often felt like I was being ineffective. Then I was asked to help with an egg roll fundraiser. They were making a few hundred egg rolls. I was asked to bring a letter around to stores to get donations and to help make the egg rolls. I also asked people from Groundwork to come and help and three people came to help. Something else that is in Uprooting Racism is that the work is often not sexy. Making egg rolls might not be that sexy, but our two organizations were building relationships together: building trust, getting to know people, building friendships.

It takes time for people who don't know each other to build trust. With a history of colonization, it is understandable that no person of color would trust me or trust groundwork because we are a white

DIVERSITY CIRCLES

By Wix Covey and Carol Lukens - WNPJ Board members from Wausau

When we hear the word “racism,” we think of our experiences as both participants and facilitators of Diversity Circles in central Wisconsin. Conducted in a circle context of dialogue and discussion, Diversity Circles are aimed at organizing dialogue on racism to create change in our communities.

We are not only enthused with the opportunity to address the many ways in which racism oppresses others, but recognize a powerful communication tool practiced as part of the Circle - the use of dialogue rather than debate, a process that can be applied directly to our peace work and commitment to nonviolent communication.

Throughout six weekly two-hour sessions, the Diversity Circle process strives through three successive goals to bring about a vision for change in our communities: to organize, to hold dialogue, and to act.

Each Circle consists of 8-12 participants, diverse in beliefs as well as identity. The goal is that a Circle include community members diverse in areas such as age, gender, race/ethnicity (including recent immigrants), political views, social/economic background, and faith. Since attendance at all sessions is required and the group commits itself to

follow specific ground rules that honor the dignity of every member, the level of comfort, safety and feeling of community among participants tends to increase each week, enhancing the likelihood of honest listening and sharing. This in turn provides a wonderful opportunity for members to establish relationships and trust, sharing their insights and experiences as they explore different sides of issues as well as common concerns. Because the facilitator remains neutral, serving only as a guide for the process, participants share direct responsibility for dialogue, discussion and action.

Since the goal of Diversity Circles is to create a vision for change in our communities, the process not only addresses the personal aspects of racism, but the institutional and structural aspects as well. This is done with a variety of activities throughout the six weekly sessions, from the sharing of personal stories, to experiential exercises that help group members grasp a deeper understanding of constructs in our society, such as institutional racism and white privilege. As a result, participants tend to gain further insights into their own history and experiences, develop greater trust and compassion for fellow group members and others who have been affected by racism, and a deeper commitment to

action in dealing with racism in their community.

Also, in working toward the goal of creating actual change, the facilitator helps participants assess inequities in their community and throughout the country by examining data based on research and statistical information. With each successive session, information and ideas gleaned from group members is documented and then provided to participants for their use in developing an action plan during the final session. They are then encouraged to host an action forum, inviting members of their community including educators, police, government personnel, and others from a wide variety of agencies and institutions. The hope is to attain democratic solutions to various problems throughout their community.

We have been powerfully moved by our own increased understanding and awareness of the many aspects of racism through our participation in the Diversity Circle process. If you would like to know more about Diversity Circles, please contact Wix Covey (wcovey@wausau.k12.wi.us) and Carol Lukens (clukens@charter.net). More information can also be found at the Everyday Democracy website: www.everyday-democracy.org.



VIGIL FOR PEACE

Something profound is happening in our towns and cities – every day. People who want peace are standing on corners with signs and banners saying “War is NOT the Answer”, “Honk for Peace” or “Impeach Bush and Cheney”. Many of these Wisconsin vigilers have been out there for years, in all types of weather – facing their neighbors with determination. And this action has changed public opinion. Four years ago, vigilers reported verbal abuse and taunts. They are now routinely greeted with “thumbs up” and encouraging words. On Saturday, March 1 in Madison, WNPJ honored the hundreds of participants from more than 40 regular vigils in our region at an “Imagine Peace” celebration. You can view the slide show at <http://www.wnpj.org/pdf/vigilppp.pdf>.

OPPRESSED TO OPPRESSOR AND BACK AGAIN

By Rick Guerard, Milwaukee WNPJ member – musicrider@sbcglobal.net

Native American nations all have a long held tradition of honoring the warrior. I am sure it goes back to who would be brave enough to stand up against an attacking bear, wolf or maybe saber tooth tiger. It was gratitude for those that would fight to save the community from an attacking group. It even applied to those that fought with the terrorists/insurgents here that were standing up against British rule of the colonies.

This rich heritage is not lost to the recruiting folks at the Pentagon. There are recruiting campaigns that are targeted toward Native people and play on the "honor" aspect. It is much easier for the recruiters to sell the empty promises

when they can play the honor card and link a poverty stricken individual to their heroic ancestors. They are very successful at it too. In a similar way it is also being done in the Latino communities.

This form of racism is not going completely unnoticed though. There is now a small but growing sentiment within the Native American communities that serving in the U.S. military is not so honored. Those that serve are even considered traitors to their people by some. This is understandable, if you look at the blunt force trauma nature of U.S. foreign policy towards nations and peoples that are cursed by having natural resources

or location that the American empire wants. What the warrior is doing when serving is to do unto other native people what had been done to his or her ancestors by the same uniform that they now wear.

It is also noticed that so many return to the same conditions as when they left. Education isn't as promised and jobs remain invisible for too many. The poverty amongst native people continues to be beyond imaginable.

May the Great Spirit grant all the wisdom to make wise choices. May our spirits be washed clean and we become one with the creation.

A REPORT ON MY FIRST YEAR AS A SIMPLE-LIVING WAR-TAX RESISTER

By Marion Stuenkel - Madison

"My grandma's a war-tax resister!" That's what my 10-year-old grandson announced to our new acquaintances. I had thought so, too, when I 'retired' in September 2006 to live on an annuity several hundred dollars below the 2007 Federal Poverty Level of \$9,500. As revelations about "depleted uranium" and no-touch torture emerged, I could no longer go on with business as usual, seemingly injured to all the rest of it. 'Intentional Income Reduction' became one way of reducing my contribution to war.

I agree with Oliver Wendell Holmes who said, "Taxes are the price we pay for civilized society." I think he was referring to public support of schools and libraries. When it comes to providing clean water and sewage disposal, public funding is vital.. I live in community - and taxes are the current way of funding these services. I cannot refuse to pay taxes that I feel I owe. But I also will

not pay for depleted uranium. That is why I decided to live below the taxable level.

Being poor is an oxymoron for me - as I have a college education, no dependents, have traveled, and have everything material I want. Choosing to be poor is different from not having basic food, shelter and clothing needs met, let alone having luxuries like books. Choosing to not have health insurance is very different than not being able to afford needed medicine. This is not to say that I haven't learned a lot about myself, my values, and the impact of personal choices on relationships during this process.

It came as a surprise then this Spring to learn that with all this preparation and decision-making, it turns out I am not a "real" 100% war-tax resister after all. My annuity from the State of Wisconsin by December 2007 was \$8,958.18 for

the year, well below the poverty line. But after all the deductions, I still ended up with taxable \$119. At my 10% tax rate, I owed \$19.00, which I paid.

So I am not a war tax resister, because I paid this Federal tax. I am still financially complicit. I failed at total resistance. I rationalize this as a reminder that like the feudal serf, unless I leave the manor, I'm beholden. My grandson can no longer tell people I am a war-tax resister. I continue to live simply on the annuity. The reasons for that choice are sound. I am not so confident about my choice to pay the \$19.00. Thoreau would not have agreed - and I don't think my grandson does either. I'm deep in thought about next year.

Marion L Stuenkel is a Lifetime WNPJ member, writer, and anti-nuclear activist. Contact: 608-442-8064

You Can't Say That *from front page*

the other side that we now excoriate the messenger rather than listen to the message.

In "Permanent Collection", a museum, which has had one black employee in its entire existence, is now run by a black man, one of those whom some whites might refer to as an uppity n***** and some blacks speak of fondly as a brother who has made it while not forgetting where he came from. His young assistant obviously sees him as old school. She says her generation has grown up with whites, been schooled with them, and counts them among their friends. Her boss corrects her and says whites are acquaintances, not friends. For even though you may inhabit the same space at the same party, there remains an invisible line that you dare not cross. Who is right? Can friendships cross racial boundaries, or are we doomed to forever play the race card, as the white antagonist of the play accuses his black colleagues of doing?

I've lived long enough to raise my children to adulthood and welcome a grandchild into the world. I long to hold some different cards, but we play the hand that's dealt us. The choice lies in the value we assign each card. My earliest memories of race as a divisive issue involve standing on the lawn of my grandparents' home one night as the family watched a burning cross illuminate the space around us. The grownups talked in whispered tones about the ones who had done this terrible thing. I could have decided right then to never cross that racial divide, but instead it made me determined to look beyond surface identity. I refuse to be diminished by race.

Senseless acts of racism, especially in our community are not as obvious as that burning cross; they don't light up the nighttime sky and leave a scorched lawn for everyone to see. It's subtler, but just as pernicious. This is what makes it easy for our collective conscience to be soothed in to thinking that there is no

problem, and if it rears its ugly head we will march against it, we will shout it down, we will erase the visible signs of its existence. So we believe. We shout the Klan down when they gather at the Capitol, then we go home and ignore the jails bulging with our black and brown young people.

In my work against racism here in Dane county I have heard many responses that support what I believe has become benevolent tolerance of injustice.

Like the head of the museum in "Permanent Collection," I have been told that you cannot call someone on his or her racism by using the word. You can't call a person, or an institution racist. A black woman in a prominent position in one of those institutions here told me that if you use the R word, they will tune you out and make your work life miserable. She learned to button her lip and took early retirement. The current and only way to talk about race (ism) is in private and in our own groups, that is, with people who look like us, where we presume that they also think like us. Then people of color can call white people racist without fear of reprisal, and whites can call people of color whiners, and racist for calling them racist. An absurd game, to be sure, but one that is being played out on a large scale in the run for the presidency.

A year ago I found my name in the Capital Times with the statement that "Barbara Golden should leave town." Who was this man who was so bold as to attack me personally in a letter to the editor; and what had I done to him? I understand better now than I did a year ago. I had and continue to break taboos by naming the skeletons in the closet of liberal Dane county. Racism is hiding in the closet, its bones held firmly together by some of the same people, institutions, and behaviors that also put us on the best-places-to-live lists.

When an article appeared in the local paper about the number of nonprofits in Dane county with no African Americans on staff, the response was predictable. No one denied the accuracy of the data; but neither did they take responsibility for it. Instead we heard about how hard they try to diversify their staff. One large agency even recruited an out of town African American to help them. The message to some of the unemployed and under-employed educated black people here is that we are invisible in this community. Look around you. As you work in your agency to improve the quality of life in Dane county, who are your colleagues? Who speaks for the groups who you are "helping"?

I haven't seen a burning cross on a lawn since I was a child visiting Alabama. But every day I see the scars left by the subtle acts of racism in this community. We all suffer when we value polite public discourse (or silence) over meaningful dialogue, however painful. I know that there are brave ones out there talking and acting. Because of this, I remain hopeful.

Barbara Golden is the founder of the Madison Area Family Advisory/Advocacy Coalition.

Action Alert

We have a Health Care crisis, with more than 50 million Americans now uninsured. A Single Payer Bill, HR 676, is in Congress and seventy House members have signed on as sponsors. Talk to your Representative. S/he might need your support to have the will to stand up to the insurance industry. Contact: Dede Mayberry at 608-259-1258 to learn more.

Loving Beyond Boundries from page 4

organization....So just those little things of showing up and taking jobs seriously, helped.” KP

It wasn't until a year and a half into the work that Kristen really got some explicit positive feedback from the group. Kabzuag, a lead organizer of the organization was invited to speak at a Groundwork workshop. Kabzuag spoke to the group of mostly white activists about how she appreciated the way that Kristen was able to be supportive and didn't take up space as other white volunteers had often done in the past. She listened and did her homework so she didn't have to take up important meeting time asking questions that would hold back the group.

After continuing a regular commitment for years, Kristen also began spending more time working with Operation Welcome Home. Operation Welcome Home started when a homeless transgender woman Miss Arlene died at Brittingham Park, just across from Freedom Inc.'s main organizing space. Neighbors proposed to the Mayor and City officials to put a fence around the park to keep out the mostly Black group of people who spend time there.

“When this issue came up about homeless people being pushed out of public space in Madison, Groundwork and Freedom Inc were ready to work together because we knew and trusted each other.” KP

Groundwork, Freedom Inc. and people from Brittingham Park published an op-ed in the Capital Times and have continued supporting one another since.

Groundwork was also able to raise \$800 to support members of Freedom Inc. to attend the US Social Forum in Atlanta. Oftentimes, White people have connections to money and this is a concrete way of supporting the work of people of color who are historically de-

nied economic resources for their basic livelihood and to carry out Social Justice work.

We're [Groundwork] mostly middle class white people. It's powerful to get to know Hmong and South East Asian people at Freedom Inc. We come from different experiences but have a similar commitment to Racial Justice and similar politics and vision for creating a world we want to live in. It's exciting because I feel our trust is always getting deeper.

“Because of my time commitment with Operation Welcome Home I told people at Freedom Inc. that I wasn't going to be involved in the boys group



anymore. But they said “you're already doing work that is part of Freedom Inc.'s mission.” They are rooted in the South East Asian community, yet they see their work tied to the liberation of all poor people and people of color. They see the work of organizing with homeless people as part of their mission, so I was invited to join the board of directors. “ KP

Kristen continues to be someone that some people in the group can call on for advice and to talk through what is going on with the group and with other parts of their lives.

While building these relationships and creating a world we want to live in, we are all benefiting from the healing of racism. Although in a much different and less violent way, white people are also affected by the dehumanization of racism.

“In a lot of the ways white people are destroyed spiritually and mentally. None of us want to be bad people, none of us are bad people. But when we do things that hurt other people we hurt ourselves because none of us want to live in that sort of a world.” KP

Here are a few ideas from Kristen's experience for white people working to support an organization of color:

- Research what people of color are doing in your area. There are People of color doing racial justice work wherever you live even if it seems that there aren't any, even if you live in a mostly white place.
- Ask how you can support the work of groups regardless of what they want you to do. A lot of this is doing behind the scenes work like fundraising, office work.
- Do what you say you're going to do.
- Keep showing up.
- Have people you can talk with outside of the group to process emotions and things that come up.
- Go into the relationship willing to learn and come from a place of wanting to get connected with human beings with deep love.
- Be open to transforming ourselves and the world we want to live in.

Bits & Peaces

Muslim Peacemaker Team Addresses Depleted Uranium Crisis

Sami Rasouli, Dr. Najim Askouri and Dr. Assad Al-Janabi, members of Muslim Peacemaker Teams – Iraq, participated in a forum on depleted uranium (DU) in Kurdish Iraq earlier this year.

Sami Rasouli, a member of the Muslim Peacemaker Team and frequent visitor/speaker in Wisconsin, was instrumental in bringing the panel together. Dr. Najim is a nuclear physicist, trained in Britain, and one of the leading nuclear researchers in Iraq until his departure in 1998. Dr. Assad is the director of the Pathology Department at the 400-bed public hospital in Najaf, Iraq.

They reported on an internal Iraqi study focused on Najaf, a city of over one million people, and the surrounding rural areas, where DU was used in the First Gulf War.

Starting in 2004, when the political situation and devastation of the health care infrastructure were at their worst, there were 251 reported cases of cancer in that area of Iraq. By 2006, that figure had risen to 688. Already in 2007, 801 cancer cases have been reported. Those figures portray an incidence rate of 28.21 per 100,000 people in 2006. The normal rate is 8-12 cases of cancer per 100,000 people.

Two observations are striking:

1. There has been a dramatic increase in the cancers that are related to radiation exposure, especially the very rare soft tissue sarcoma and leukemia.
2. The age at which cancer begins has been dropping rapidly. Dr. Assad noted that 6% of the cancers reportedly occurred in the 11-20 year old age-range and another 18% in ages 21-30.

Dr. Najim noted that U.S.-led Coalition Forces used 350 tons of DU weapons in about 45 days in 1991, primarily in the stretch of Iraq northwest of Kuwait, following the retreat of Iraqi troops. Then in 2003, during the ‘Shock and Awe’ bombing of Baghdad, the U.S. used another 150 tons of DU. He asked, “Would it be just to ask for equipment to continue the testing to locate contaminated sites, a hospital to care for children born with a DU-impacted genetic system, a center for study and decontamination of affected areas, and support for a special environmental department at the local university?” He assumed the U.S. would not respond to a total compensation request, but did assume it was appropriate to make these requests for compensation, to clean the environment, and care for those exposed to the DU. *From Nukewatch Quarterly, nukewatch@lakeland.ws, Spring, 2008.*

Ho-Chunk Acquires Badger Ammo Plant

The Ho-Chunk Nation has requested the transfer of an estimated 1,552 acres of the Badger Army Ammunition Plant, near Merrimac, WI. This acquisition is for the use and benefit of the Ho-Chunk Nation and its people. The land around Badger has very important historic and cultural significance to the Ho-Chunk, as it lies within their aboriginal territory and includes a number of historic and pre-



historic sites of significance to Native peoples. Plans for the restoration include prairie, wetlands and oak savanna. Habitat restoration will coincide with the expansion of the Ho-Chunk Nation bison herd. There will also be low-impact recreation activity sites established, such as areas for interpretive nature walks, hiking, wildlife viewing, and bison tours. *Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger (CSWAB) Newsletter, Spring 2008 info@cswab.org.*

Pentagon Tries to Purchase Diebold

In a move that reminds one of the post-Vietnam era - when the news networks were bought by the major military profiteers in order to eliminate truth in reporting - the Pentagon contractor United Technologies has reportedly put forth an offer to purchase Diebold, Inc. Don't forget - Diebold, Inc. is the major manufacturer of voting systems used in America. *Rick Guerard – Milwaukee musicrider@sbcglobal.net.*

Torture Watchlist

Israel, Syria, China, Iran, Afghanistan, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, and the United States have something in common. They are all on Canada's Foreign Ministry “torture watchlist”. The list is used in a ‘torture awareness’ course given to Canadian diplomats. It helps them determine whether prisoners they visit abroad are likely to have been mistreated. *Nukewatch Quarterly, nukewatch@lakeland.ws - Spring 2008.*

THANKS

By Dennis Bergren, WNPJ secretary lgbt@wnpj.org

The Wisconsin Books to Prisoners Project (WBTP) is happy to announce a grant to their group from the New Harvest Foundation, which is providing \$1,200 to purchase and send books to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) inmates of Wisconsin's adult correctional institutions. The New Harvest Foundation channels charitable contributions to organizations working to promote LGBT rights, services, culture, and community development.

Wisconsin Books to Prisoners Project is a small, all-volunteer, non-profit orga-

nization, founded in the fall of 2006 that sends books to prisoners in Wisconsin and several other states. It responds to every letter received (presently 20-30 a week).

WBTP believes that books are tools for learning and that reading opens minds to new ideas and possibilities. By sending books to prisoners, WBTP hopes to foster a love of reading and support the pursuit of self-education. From our donated stock of books and limited funds, we generally send 2-3 books in the fields

of interest indicated by prisoners. Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative of Madison serves as our retail sponsor.

WBTP is also grateful to the Wisconsin Community Fund, the Racine Dominican Sisters, and the Madison War Tax Resisters for their continued support. Contact WBTP to donate books or money or to receive additional information at: wisconsinbookstoprisoners@yahoo.com or see www.madisoninfoshop.org/wbtp/.



Peace and Justice Resources

April 2008 marks the **40th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King**. The national office of United for Peace and Justice has posted online several **posters and fliers** that can be downloaded, printed and used: www.5yearstoomany.org/downloads/King%20Posters1-word.doc; or the flier: www.5yearstoomany.org/downloads/MLK%20flier.doc.

The Racial Justice Reader compiled by Groundwork is available from the WNPJ office. This 220-page document has everything you want to know about resources, history, and plans for achieving racial justice. Contact Judy at info@wnpj.org to get your copy of this valuable resource.

NAACP's Annual Report focuses on racial disparity. The report called "African Americans: the State of Disparity" can be downloaded from the website: www.NAACP.org/programs.

Check out truth-in-recruiting resources on the website of the Coalition Against Militarism Of Our Schools, www.militaryfreeschools.org. (CAMS)

WNPJ has a copy of the DVD "Way of the Warrior" for use by our members. This documentary was produced for Wisconsin Public Television, exploring peace and Native Americans and war. If you would like to check out this copy, contact Judy at info@wnpj.org.

The Peace Symbol is 50 years old! Read about the origins in **PEACE: The Biography of a Symbol** (National Geographic Books; ISBN: 978-1-4262-0294-0; April 1, 2008; \$25 hardcover), by Ken Kolsbun with Michael Sweeney.

Games for Peace and Justice: Peacemaker attempts to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict by having the players assume the role of the Israeli prime minister or Palestinian president

www.peacemakergame.com/game.php; **Darfur Is Dying** is a web-based game designed to raise awareness of the humanitarian crisis in Africa. Find it at www.darfurisdying.com/; **Food Force** teaches children about global hunger and humanitarian aid. Find it on the UN World Food Program website - www.food-force.com/.

The **Body of War**, a documentary by Phil Donahue and Ellen Spiro will be released this spring. It tells the story of a young soldier who became a paraplegic in Iraq. Added to the website announcing the film is a link to an interview of the authors by Bill Moyers. <http://www.bodyofwar.com/> and <http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/03212008/profile2.html>.

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: _____

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

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 "Join Us" to see how.

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

VOLUNTEERS MAKE WNPJ WORK!

WNPJ gives thanks to so many volunteers this long winter and spring! Madison activists Joy First, Flo Evans, Susan Spahn, & Karin Sandvik were able to do community service for WNPJ in place of paying fines for arrests for their civil resistance.

Lois, Jane, and Bev from Dakota helped with sortings and mailings over the New Year. Mary Beth Schlagheck organized an event to honor vigilers. Barb Boehme, Nan Cheney and Stefania helped with Fair Trade tabling. Sue Kummar lent her tal-

ents as a graphic designer for our new Immigrants Welcome yard sign. Russell Novkov and Fred Brancel tabled for WNPJ at a Madison event honoring MLK. And Chuck Baynton traveled far and wide for WNPJ outreach. Thanks to all!

WNPJ Calendar for May - June, 2008

5/1 Thurs 10:30 am March for Immigration Rights – Milwaukee, 5th and Washington. Contact Voces de la Frontera, 414-643-1620.

5/1 Thurs 12 noon- Rally/March for Immigration Reform – Madison. Contact Alex alexgmillis@gmail.com.



5/1 Thurs 7 pm Sami Rasouli – Wausau.



At St. Anne Parish, 700 W. Bridge St. Eyewitness accounts of Iraq by this member of the Muslim Peacemaking Team. Contact: Carol at clukens@charter.net.

5/11 Sun 12 noon Mother's Day peace Luncheon – Milwaukee. Maharaja Indian Restaurant, 1550 Farwell Ave. Reservations required. info@peaceactionwi.org.

5/14 Wed 7 pm Public Address by Archbishop Elias Chacour: Building Peace in the Midst of the Palestinian/Israeli Conflict – Madison. At First United Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Ave. www.pilgrimsofwilliam.org. rafahsistersister@yahoo.com.

5/15 Thurs 7 pm "Training Our Sons and Daughters to Kill" - Racine. Huron Room of the Racine Building, Gateway Technical College. Contact dkinch@rootcom.net.

5/17 Sat Celebration of Leadership of LGBT Youth - Madison. Monona Terrace. Contact: Cindy Crane, of GSA for Safe Schools - 608-661-4141.

5/24 Sat "Surge Against the War" Rally and Workshops – Madison. All welcome. Contact: Rae Vogeler of MAPC at rae-v@charter.net.

6/14 – 6/22 Sat – Sun Travel to Nicaragua with WCCN- 8 day trip - "Social Change through Alternative Economic Projects: Women's Empowerment and Microcredit in Nicaragua." <http://wccnica.org/tours> or call 608-257-7230.

6/20 Fri 7:30 – 10:30 Pancakes for Peace – Benefit for WNPJ – Custer. At the Energy Fair. Contact chamomile@arthaonline.com.

6/25 Wed Pastors for Peace Caravan Stop – Luck. West Denmark Church. Contact Mike anathoth@lakeland.wv.



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

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WNPJ ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS
(New Members in bold)

Alliance for Animals–Madison
ACLU - Madison
Anathoth Community Farm–Luck
Artha Sustainable Living Center, LLC -
Amherst
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–
Citizen Action of Wisconsin - Green
Bay
Citizens for Global Solutions– Dane
County and Whitewater Chapters
Citizens for Safe Water Around Badger–
Merrimac
Coalition for Wisconsin Health–
Madison
Code Pink–Boscobel
Colombia Support Network–Madison
Community Action on Latin America–
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
DeKalb, IL 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
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
Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools
Global Connections Team:ELCA
Grandmothers for Peace–Superior
Great Lakes Region Social Concerns
Network
Habiba Foundation–Janesville
Hill Connections–Chaseburg
Hiroshima-Nagasaki A-bomb
Exhibition Committee - Madison
Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice -
Madison
Interfaith Justice and Peace Group–La
Crosse
International Committee for the Peace
Council–Madison
Iraq Veterans Against the War - Madison
Jewish Voices for Peace - Madison
Juneau County Peace Committee–
Mauston
Kickapoo Peace Circle–Viroqua
Lakeshore Peacemakers–Manitowoc
Loaves and Fishes Catholic Worker–
Duluth
Lutheran Human Relations Association -
Milwaukee
Lutheran Office of Justice and Peace–
LaCrosse
Madison Arcatao Sister City Project
Madison Area Peace Coalition
Madison Area War Tax Resistance
Madison Buddhist Peace Fellowship
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
Marquette University Center for
Peacemaking - Milwaukee
Mary House–Wisconsin Dells
Midwest Renewable Energy Association–
Custer
Miracles Prisoner Ministry - WI Dells
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–Drummond
Peace Seekers of Washington County
People for Peace–Waupaca
Peregrine Forum–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 River Peace Group -
Ft. Atkinson - Whitewater
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 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
University United Methodist Church–
Madison
Veterans for Peace–Chapter 25,
Madison, **Chapter #153, Cable, &**
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 Books to Prisoners Project
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