



Merrimack Valley People For Peace

Serving the communities of the Merrimack Valley

Merrimack Valley People for Peace, Inc. works for a sustainable future for all life on our planet. Our members commit themselves to the interrelated activities of education for peace and justice, the prevention of war, an end to arms sales, the abolition of nuclear weapons, and protection of the environment.

May 2005

Merrimack Valley People for Peace joins the United Nations and peacemakers around the world in proclaiming the years 2001-2010 to be the "International Decade for the Culture of Peace."

GOOD NEWS!

Compiled with the help of Boryana Tacconi

There was recent evidence in Andover that angels do exist, especially in the most ordinary of circumstances. A vigiler was walking down the sidewalk on a Saturday morning, on his way to an alternative vigil site. He was holding his peace flag and wearing large placards, front and back, with messages about the costs of war and the zero reasons to be in Iraq. The driver of a large pickup truck, slowing for a red light, rolled down his window and shouted: "Where's your parade permit? You f---ing Communist! You ought to be arrested. Get off our streets." As he began to remind the driver about the rights of free speech, the vigiler was gently interrupted by a firm hand at his elbow and a stranger's voice, a woman who replied directly to the driver: "I'm with him. We're a parade."

Local newspapers recently gave full coverage to all of the reasons MVPP sustains its 6 weekly vigils in Andover. The Andover Townsman (March 31) and the Lawrence Eagle-Tribune (April 6) printed a letter to the editor and an op-ed article respectively, each of which contained the entire text of MVPP's statement "Why We Still Vigil." We appreciate the public attention and credibility extended to MVPP's peace vigils, some of which have been ongoing well before the invasion and occupation of Iraq.

Sally and Don Goodrich of Bennington, VT, whose son, Peter, perished when the second plane hit the Twin Tower on September 11, 2001, have helped raise around \$180,000 now being used to build a school for 500 girls in Afghanistan. Mrs. Goodrich, an educational administrator in North Adams, MA, recently visited the construction site in Surkh Abat, Logar Province, 30 miles south of Kabul. While it is not a memorial to her son, it is a project, she says, of which he would have approved. Funding came from local churches, schools, and family friends, plus compensation paid to families of 9/11 victims. The Goodriches plan to return to see the finished school in operation. In fact, that's how they plan to spend the 4th anniversary of the terrorists' attacks, in Logar with the girls studying in the new facility.

Who says student activism is dead? While cynicism may sell in the media, committed school and college students make change happen around the country. 1.) In late March, Georgetown University students ended a successful 9-day hunger strike resulting in better compensation for contract workers. This action is part of a growing nationwide fight for better working conditions on campuses, conducted by students who believe their colleges and universities are acting like abusive corporations that hire their workers at very low wages. 2.) Students at Washington University in St. Louis, also advocating for better

pay for university contract workers, achieved a groundbreaking victory on April 22, after a six-day hunger strike and a 19-day sit-in. The Student Worker Alliance (SWA) helped secure the University's commitment to at least \$1 million in the next two years toward salary and benefits for lower-paid contract employees, plus the membership of the University in the Workers Rights Consortium and the formation of a committee with SWA representation to improve University policies so they "better meet the needs of lower-paid service workers." "It's absolutely part of a national movement that students are becoming more aware of their dependence on the exploitation of workers," said Washington University sophomore Joe Thomas, 19, and SWA spokesman. 3.) In early April, students at Swarthmore College (PA) launched "The 100 Days of Action Campaign" of the Genocide Intervention Fund. Established by Swarthmore students, this fund drive is in full swing across U.S. campuses, raising money to support African Union peacekeepers in Darfur (<http://genocideinterventionfund.org>). 4.) In early April, after months of pressure from Harvard student activists, the University agreed to divest an estimated \$4.4 million in shares it owned in PetroChina, whose parent company has close ties with the Sudanese government. 5.) At the end of March, The Campus Antiwar Network at New York University caused the cancellation a planned CIA marketing event on their campus. Said one student organizer behind the cancellation, "Forcing them to cancel their big speaking event is a huge victory. It showed them they can't market an agency that supports torture and murder around the world without a fight." 6.) Students at the University of Tennessee have inaugurated a short and solemn pledge for young people to take, asserting that, should a draft be reinstated, they will not serve. Signatures are being gathered at their website: <http://www.wewontgo.org>. They believe their pledge serves two purposes: to alert their sisters and brothers to the danger of a reinstated draft and to put the Bush administration, Congress, and the American public on notice. 7.) As the

MVPP Monthly Meeting – North Parish Church – Tuesday, May 24, 2005, 7:30 PM

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Weekly Vigils

Andover: Sunday, noon-1 pm; Shawsheen Square, Junction of Routes 133 and 28; Lawrence Friends Meeting/ Shawsheen Peace Witness; Allan Sifferlen, asifferlen@sbra.com.

Andover: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 7-8 pm; Saturday, 10:45 am-noon (in good weather, 10-noon); Old Town Hall, 20 Main St.; Merrimack Valley People for Peace; Lou Bernieri, lbernieri@andover.edu.

Andover: Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 am; in front of Raytheon plant near Routes 133 and 93; Raytheon Peacemakers; Arthur Brien, 978-686-4418.

Gloucester: Saturday, noon-1 pm; Grant Circle.

Gloucester: Tuesday, 7-8 pm; Fisherman's Wives Memorial.

Ipswich: Saturday, 11-noon; at the bottom of Town Hill (Junction of Route 133).

Lawrence: Saturday, noon-1 pm; Broadway and Essex Streets; Lawrence Peace Coalition; Martina Cruz, martina_m_cruz@yahoo.com.

Marblehead: Wednesday, 5-7 pm; at the Peace Pole, Memorial Park (by the YMCA); Tom Gale, 781-631-1218.

Newburyport: Sunday, noon-1 pm; Market Square; Niki Rosen, 978-463-3208.

Reading: 2nd Saturday/each month, 11 am-noon; Reading Square; Reading People for Peace; Bob Connor, bobconnor1@yahoo.com.

Rockport: Wednesday, noon-1 pm; First Congregational Church (silent for peace).

Salem, MA: Saturday, 11-noon; Riley Plaza (by the Post Office).

Salem, NH: Saturday, 12:30-1:30 pm; at corner of Routes 28 and 97; Henry Misserville, 978-470-0663.

You can buy Rainbow Peace Flags, buttons, bumperstickers, etc. at Saturday vigils in Andover.

Defense Department continues to spend heavily on advertising, high school and college students are building their resistance to military recruitment efforts. One example alone is "Students against War and Racism" at Kennedy High School in Bloomington, MN, who, resisting pressure and threats of suspension from school administration, pressed on with their teach-in and anti-recruitment campaign.

Montana recently became the fifth state to pass a resolution condemning the Patriot Act. The resolution, which does not carry the weight of a law but expresses the Legislature's opinion, passed the House 88-12 in the beginning of April, uniting politicians of all colors. It encourages Montana law enforcement agencies not to participate in investigations authorized under the Patriot Act that violate Montanans' constitutional rights. It asks Montana's attorney general to review any state intelligence information and destroy it if it is not tied directly to suspected criminals. It also asks the attorney general to find out how many Montana citizens have been arrested under the Patriot Act and how many people have been subject to government searches of their property without their knowledge. The resolution requests all libraries in the state to post a sign that under the Patriot Act, federal agents may force librarians to turn over a record of books a person has checked out without informing that citizen of the request.

"Montana isn't the first state that passed a resolution, but this resolution is the strongest statement against the constitutional violations of the Patriot Act of any state and almost every city or county," said the sponsor of the resolution, State Sen. Jim Elliott, D-Trout Creek. Lawmakers' overwhelming support for it clearly shows that civil liberties are a bipartisan issue in "red" (for those who are happy with that simplistic labeling) Montana.

In fact, the bigger picture shows that grassroots revolt against the Patriot Act is gaining momentum every day. Five states and 372 counties, cities, towns, and villages have passed resolutions, ordinances, or ballot initiatives condemning it and declaring their commitment to the values expressed in the Bill of Rights in an unprecedented show of opposition to the Bush administration's assaults of basic liberties. From the Town Council of Castle Valley, Utah (pop. 350) to the City Council of New York (pop. 8,008,278), the people have expressed concerns about federal actions that unduly sacrifice fundamental rights

and liberties in the name of security. Approximately 57 million Americans reside in the local and state communities that have officially opposed the Patriot Act so far. And hundreds more resolutions are in progress. (See "Bill of Rights Defense Committee," www.bordc.org.) Now, to help Massachusetts become the sixth state to vote its resistance!

U.S. Senators are joining those who have heard the call. In the first week of April, Russ Feingold, D-Wisc., the only Senator who opposed the Patriot Act back in 2001, introduced a revised version of the Security and Freedom Enhancement (SAFE) Act, a measure designed to address the worst excesses of the Patriot Act. According to Feingold, "The SAFE Act permits the government to conduct necessary surveillance, but only within a framework of accountability and oversight." This time, Feingold was not standing alone. By his side were Idaho Sen. Larry Craig, a conservative Republican, and Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, a liberal Democrat. It looks like pressure from the grassroots has gotten Congress moving.

Despite the vote to open the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve, activists and legislators have achieved environmental victories in the last year. The Clear Skies Initiative was dropped: Thanks to a 9-to-9 vote by the Environment and Public Works Committee, this bill which would have loosened air pollution restrictions for power plants, factories and refineries did not advance to the Senate. Colorado passed the Renewable Energy Initiative: Colorado's *Amendment 37* requires the state's largest electric companies to increase their use of renewable sources such as wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, and small hydro from less than 2% today to 10% by 2015. This is expected to save \$236 million by 2025, create 2,000 jobs and reduce gas prices in the state. Clean Car legislation: Laws calling for the reduction of harmful auto emissions are being adopted in California and seven other states, with five additional states considering similar action. With Canada adopting a similar program, this means that a third of North America's automobile market will require "clean cars." (Meanwhile, lobbying movements build for laws promoting hybrid cars, which could cut oil consumption by half in the next two decades.) Challenging Mercury: Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Jersey have implemented stronger controls on mercury emissions from power plants than the EPA. This comes as a response to the loophole-laden policy issued by the EPA in March that actually

deregulates those controls. Also, nine state attorney generals have filed lawsuits against the agency, arguing that the new lax rules jeopardize public health.

Anti-sweatshop campaigners are starting to see results of yearlong efforts to get the customers of big brand names concerned with “ethical shopping.” After a decade of denying any wrongdoing, companies such as NIKE, GAP, and LEVI STRAUSS are now admitting that their workers have been exploited and abused, and have pledged to improve the conditions of millions of workers producing their top-selling goods. The tactics adopted by *No Sweat* and other activist groups in recent years have been based not so much on boycott, as on raising awareness among consumers of the terrible working conditions in the factories where their clothing and shoes are being made all over the world. Activists say firms are realizing that being linked with sweatshop labor can lead to a dip rather than a rise in profits.

Recently, NIKE published its first corporate and social responsibility report (CSR) in four years, with details of all its factories and a pledge to increase monitoring of working conditions. LEVI STRAUSS sent its own investigators to a factory in Mexico where abuses were uncovered by *No Sweat*. The firm acknowledged that the accusations were true and worked with the contractor to ensure unions were recognized (in the past, workers had been fired for being union members).

“There is still a long way to go, but we are beginning to see real movement on the issue,” said Mick Duncan, the founder and secretary of *No Sweat*.

Several diverse groups came to the annual shareholder meeting of Caterpillar in Chicago on April 13 to call on CAT to end the sale of weaponized bulldozers to the Israeli military. Among them were the Jewish Voice for Peace, Stop Caterpillar-Chicago, the US Campaign to End the Occupation, the Sisters of Loretto, Mercy Investment Group, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch. Globally, protests were held in over 30 cities over the world bringing attention to CAT’s role in profiting from violating human rights and perpetuating the occupation. Since shareholder resolutions are non-binding, the main goal was to shine a spotlight on the issue. “In that, we were successful beyond our wildest dreams,” writes Cecilie Surasky from Jewish Voice for Peace. “The issue of home demolitions of Palestinian homes dominated the entire meeting... CAT CEO Jim Owens spent the majority of the meeting asking, ‘Does anyone have *anything else* to talk about, anything related to business?’ Of course the only business that most people attending wanted to talk about was home demolitions and sales to the Israeli military.” The campaign is starting to have a clear financial impact on the company. Whereas in 2001 only 3 stories in major media connected CAT bulldozers with human rights abuses, already in the first quarter of 2005, 275 similar stories have run in major English language publications. One commentator documented that CAT stock went down by 8.5% on the week of the shareholder vote.

Protesters at the Republican National Convention scored an apparent win in their recent arrest settlement. In the settlement of a legal dispute over New York’s arrest and detainment methods during the R.N.C. last summer, the city agreed to pay legal fees of \$231,200 and a fine of \$150 to each of 108 plaintiffs, while lawyers for the protesters dropped their case against the city. Although the settlement ends the criminal contempt

case against the city, it does not stop people from filing civil suits. To date, 570 notices of claim, totaling \$859 million, have been filed to date. A lawyer for one of the plaintiffs said this agreement “is the first of many settlements that will hold the city accountable for what we believe is a violation of the rule of law during the R.N.C.”

The Navajo Nation has outlawed uranium mining and processing on its reservation. If passed by Tribal President, Joe Shirley Jr., who strongly supports it, this bill would not allow the reopening of mining on their lands. (Earlier mining operations over 40 years had left the Navajo people with radiation sickness and contaminated tailings and mines. The ban includes conventional pit mining as well as the “in-situ” processing method that uses a solution to leach out uranium and pump it to the surface. Companies have worked for years to get approval for in-situ mining in areas estimated to have nearly 100 million pounds of uranium. “This legislation just chopped the legs off the uranium monster,” said Norman Brown a member of Dine Bidzii, one of the Navajo activist groups.

Peace Vision Project: Hope and Healing in Action

In April, Peace Vision Project--co-founded by Jane Cadarette, a 20-year member of MVPP, and Stuart Leiderman, an environmental refugee expert--reported that wonderful things were happening at Hadassah University Medical Center in Jerusalem. Diyar al-Jaff is being treated for his leukemia! As MVPP members know, Diyar is a 5-year-old Iraqi Kurd, one of the first refugees Peace Vision Project agreed to assist in finding medical treatment. Born of parents who escaped death in the 1988 chemical weapons attack on Halabja, Diyar had been diagnosed with leukemia. The family fled to Jordan from Iraq with Diyar in critical need of a bone marrow transplant, one that proved to be too complicated for Jordanian hospitals. Their continuing search for help brought them to Jerusalem.

The al-Jaff family had left everything behind. The father went back into Iraq at one point to try to sell an old car and other items, but in a time of war there were few buyers. Diyar and his parents visited many leaders of mosques, churches, and synagogues in Jerusalem requesting prayers and receiving comforting support. In February, the *Jerusalem Post* published an article about Diyar’s need and Peace Vision Project’s cause, resulting in many e-mails, calls, and donations to the Project. Then, the global fee of \$127,000 was negotiated down to \$50,000 by Steve Shor, the president of the National Children’s Leukemia Foundation, which had joined Peace Vision Project’s efforts on Diyar’s behalf.

Jane has reported more good news: “We have been told, but not officially, that the rest of the fee has been satisfied. Whether it was waived by the hospital or one or several donors contributed the money, we do not know at this time. We do know that Diyar was accepted into treatment--something we were told would not happen unless the fee was satisfied.” Thus, by early April, Diyar was able to begin treatment of the kind that could possibly save his life. However, he is in a crucial stage of treatment when his body’s defenses are down.

Those who seek further information or wish to make contributions to this critical aid for war victims may contact Jane at peacevisionproject@att.net or 978-686-5777 or Stuart Leiderman at leidermn@cisunix.unh.edu or 603-776-0055. Donations specifically designated to assist Diyar will be tax deductible if

checks are made out to National Children's Leukemia Foundation with "Diyar al-Jaff" written in the memo line and sent to Peace Vision Project, P.O. Box 584, North Andover, MA 01845. All other contributions to Peace Vision Project are not tax deductible at this time.

All Things Fascist Considered:

Patterns of National Behavior and Abuse of Power

Commentary by Don Abbott

At the Friday evening kick-off on April 8th of the AFSC Conference "*Hope and Hard Work: Another America Is Possible*," Joe Gerson declared that in America we have now moved into the "early stages of a fascist society." Ours is a time, he said, characterized by our government's overwhelming use of fear, lies, and media manipulation and by official derision of those who use reality-based analysis to effect social change. Fast forward to the final gathering on Saturday afternoon, when the conference coordinator closed the day by quoting journalist Ron Suskind's chilling account of a conversation he had with a White House aide in 2002 ("Without a Doubt," New York Times Magazine, 10/17/04):

"The aide said that guys like me were 'in what we call the reality-based community,' which he defined as people who 'believe that solutions emerge from your judicious study of discernible reality.' I nodded and murmured something about enlightenment principles and empiricism. He cut me off. 'That's not the way the world really works anymore,' he continued. 'We're an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality. And while you're studying that reality--judiciously, as you will--we'll act again, creating other new realities, which you can study too, and that's how things will work out. We're history's actors...and you, all of you, will be left to just study what we do.'"

Given such imperial attitudes and abuses in the highest places of American power, no one questions that peace workers and war resisters have their work cut out for them these days. But is it fascism that we are confronting? The AFSC conference led me to find and read an article by Laurence W. Britt, "Fascism Anyone?," published in the April 2003 issue of Free Inquiry Magazine, volume 23, Number 2
http://www.secularhumanism.org/library/fi/britt_23_2.htm

Britt studied seven different regimes: Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, Franco's Spain, Salazar's Portugal, Papadopoulos's Greece, Pinochet's Chile, and Suharto's Indonesia. His analysis revealed for him "fourteen common threads that link them in recognizable patterns of national behavior and abuse of power." In condensed form, here are the fourteen threads identified by Britt. They might be considered "Early Warning Signs of Fascism."

1. Powerful and continuing expressions of nationalism.
2. Disdain for the importance of human rights.
3. Identification of enemies/scapegoats as a unifying force.
4. The supremacy of the military/avid militarism.
5. Rampant sexism.
6. A controlled mass media.
7. Obsession with national security.
8. Religion and ruling elite tied together.
9. Power of corporations protected.
10. Power of labor suppressed or eliminated.
11. Disdain and suppression of intellectuals and the arts.

12. Obsession with crime and punishment.

13. Rampant cronyism and corruption.

14. Fraudulent elections.

Britt ends his article with the following: "*Does any of this ring alarm bells? Of course not. After all, this is America, officially a democracy with the rule of law, a constitution, a free press, honest elections, and a well-informed public constantly being put on guard against evils. Historical comparisons like these are just exercises in verbal gymnastics. Maybe, maybe not.*"

For me, the AFSC conference rang the alarm bell...in a much clearer tone than I had heard since the "re-election" of George Bush last November. A corrosive strain of fascism, wedded to an extremist Christian view, has penetrated our public life, eroding our sense of right and wrong. The challenge now, for every ordinary person, is to draw on reserves of courage we don't even know we have. We dare not let fear paralyze and corrupt us any longer. Our government's abuse of power merits one response: resistance. Imaginative, nimble, and relentless resistance. Every moment is time enough to reclaim the humanity we have lost.

Priorities for Action

UJP Counter-Recruitment Campaign

New Website up and Running

United for Justice with Peace works actively in the growing national movement to counter the military recruitment of youth. Members of MVPP participate in UJP's Military Recruitment Working Group, a regional task force whose next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 22 at the AFSC office in Cambridge, from 3 PM to 5 PM. A significant new development in this effort is the brand-new website created by UJP.

This website is found at <http://www.justicewithpeace.org/?target=counter-recruit>. It has invaluable resources under the heading "UJP Counter-Recruitment Campaign." The site contains information on ways to get started, organizing kits and other supporting materials, legal rights of counter-recruiters, alternatives for youth, counter-recruitment efforts, and supporting news articles. It is a must for those who wish to learn how to get involved in the effort to reduce the supply of troops for illegal and unjust military invasions like the Iraq War, to educate youth about their options, and to demilitarize our schools.

Ten Points to Consider before You Sign a Military Enlistment Agreement by American Friends Service Committee; available at <http://www.afsc.org/eyes/10pts.pdf>.

1. Do not make a quick decision by enlisting the first time you see a recruiter or when you are upset. A recruiter is a salesperson who will give only a positive, one-sided picture of life in the military. Don't make this important decision when you are depressed, hard up for work, confused, unsure about your future, or pressured by your family. This decision affects many years of your life; don't make it lightly.

2. Take a witness with you when you speak with a recruiter. There is a lot of information to take in. A friend can take notes and help you ask questions.

3. Talk to veterans. Veterans can give you their view of military life, good and bad.

4. Consider your moral feelings about going to war. The mission of the military is to prepare for and wage war. Are you willing to kill another person if ordered to do so? Would you be willing to fight in any war, no matter what the reason? If you would have trouble engaging in war or in killing, you should not consider enlisting. If you become opposed to war after you join, you may try to get a discharge, but it is a long, difficult, and uncertain process.

5. Get a copy of the enlistment agreement. Read the fine print carefully, especially the part about what the military can order you to do. You have a right to take it home, look it over, and ask others about it.

6. There is no "period of adjustment" during which you may request and receive an immediate honorable discharge. Once you have left for basic training, you must fulfill the entire number of years (usually eight, with some of these in the Reserves) on your enlistment contract. You cannot leave of your own free will. In contrast, however, the military may decide you are "unsuitable" and discharge you without your consent.

7. Get all your recruiter's promises in writing, but also remember that the military can change the terms--such as pay, job, or benefits--of your work. Though there are no guarantees, a written statement may offer you (as a service member) some protection if promises are not met. However, the enlistment agreement is more binding on you than on the military. You are ultimately responsible for information on the form, so don't tell lies, even if pressured.

8. There are no job guarantees in the military. The military is not required to keep you on a full-time or permanent basis in the job you trained for. In fact, most recruiters were assigned to recruiting jobs against their will. The kind of job you get depends mostly on what jobs the military needs to fill. Most military jobs are in areas that account for only a small percentage of civilian jobs.

9. Military personnel may not exercise all of the civil liberties enjoyed by civilians. You will not have the same constitutional rights. Your rights to free speech, assembly, petition, and exercise of individual expression, such as clothing or hairstyle, will be restricted. You will be required to follow all orders given to you, whether you agree with them and consider them right or fair.

10. Many other opportunities exist for you to serve your community and enhance your skills. Before you decide to enlist, check out other options that would help you "be all you can be." Travel, education, money for school, job training, and adventure can all be found in other ways. Your local community may even have opportunities that you haven't considered.

Support BioWeapons Legislative Campaign

By Don Abbott

Difficult as it may be to believe, there are no regulations--federal or state--for the type of BioSafety Level 4 Lab that Boston University has been funded to build in Roxbury. We have standards in Massachusetts with regard to other facilities that could pose dangers and risks to public health and security--e.g. power plants, nuclear plants, landfills, even restaurants. But for the

B.U. Bio-Lab, where government-sponsored scientists will be working with some of the most lethal pathogens known (or as yet unknown!) to humankind today? No legislated regulations.

This is one of several reasons for everyone to become engaged advocates for legislation introduced by State Representative Gloria Fox of Roxbury--HD 4249: "An Act to Protect the Public Health and Environment from Toxic Biological Agents." Concern about the Bio-Lab is widespread and growing. The overall issue has local, regional, national, and global dimensions, and now is the time for statewide action. In addition to contacting our legislators, we are encouraged to bring pressure on Speaker of the House, Salvatore F. Dimasi (617-722-2500) and Senate President, Robert E. Travaglini (617-722-1500).

The following statement has been prepared by Boston Mobilization: <http://www.bostonmobilization.org/bioleg.php>

11 Compelling Reasons to Support BSL4 Biolab Legislation (HD 4249) .

- **MASSACHUSETTS HAS NO REGULATORY PROGRAM FOR BSL4 LABORATORIES.** The legislation creates a regulatory program for BSL4 laboratories because none exists in Massachusetts, or on a Federal level. There are only unenforceable guidelines!
- **BSL4 LABORATORIES ARE INHERENTLY DANGEROUS.** The legislation recognizes that BSL4 laboratories are inherently dangerous because they experiment with select toxic biological agents (such as plague and Ebola) that might cause a disease outbreak, deaths, and a public health crisis if released into the community.
- **MASSACHUSETTS REGULATES OTHER INHERENTLY DANGEROUS FACILITIES.** If the BSL4 laboratory were another type of inherently dangerous facility, such as a landfill or power plant, Massachusetts would have rules on where it could be located, how the location decision would be made, operations and maintenance standards, and other regulations to protect the public health and environment.
- **THE LEGISLATION IS BASED ON EXISTING CONCEPTS OF LAW.** The legislation contains no concepts that do not exist in Massachusetts law. It is based on existing state law for hazardous industries and practices, as well as some federal guidance.
- **STATE IMPACT:** No new agencies are being created. The state will be required to promulgate regulations, issue permits, and regulate BSL4 laboratories. Because there will be only a few such laboratories, there should be a minimal impact on state resources.
- **SAFETY:** The legislation incorporates many of the otherwise not enforceable promises that BU and the federal government have made about the laboratory. For example, it would require a laboratory to have operations and maintenance plans for its containment systems and a system of security for the laboratory. The details would be set forth in regulations that the state would adopt.

- **TERRORISM:** The legislation recognizes that the laboratory will be a source of bioterrorism agents and a terrorist target and should have procedures to minimize risks from terrorism.
- **TRANSPARENCY:** The legislation makes sure that the work of the lab is open to state, local, and public review to ensure that the laboratory can be properly regulated. Based on BU's promise that no offensive weapons research will be undertaken, the legislation includes measures to prevent the laboratory from conducting clandestine bioweapons projects.
- **COMMUNITY:** The legislation provides the community with oversight authority to help ensure that the community is knowledgeable and involved in determining that the threat from the laboratory is known and minimized.
- **PENALTIES:** The legislation allows the state to impose financial penalties on the laboratory for violations of laws and regulations, based on the similar penalty provisions in other state environmental laws.
- **MUNICIPAL REGULATION:** The legislation allows a city or town to have its own laws and regulations for BSL4 laboratories to supplement state law.

Global Perspectives

The 2005 Goldman Prize: "Environmental Nobel Prize" awarded to 6 international grassroots environmentalists

Celebrating its 16th year, the Goldman Environmental Prize has just honored 6 grassroots environmentalists. Chosen from six habitable continents for their sustained and significant environmental achievements, these environmental heroes richly deserve the recognition, visibility, and credibility they have now received. By often taking large personal risks to promote the common good, they set an inspiring example for us all. See <http://www.goldmanprize.org> for further information on the work of the recipients.

The 2005 Goldman honorees, each of whom has received an award of \$125,000, are:

Isidro Baldenegro López, 38, Chihuahua, Mexico;
Corneille Ewango, 41, Epulu, Democratic Republic of the Congo;
Kaisha Atakhanova, 47, Karaganda, Kazakhstan;
Father José Andrés Tamayo Cortez, 47, Olancho, Honduras;
Stephanie Roth, 34, Rosia Montana, Romania; and
Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, 58, Papay, Haiti.

At the Awards Ceremony on April 18, Founder Richard N. Goldman delivered the following keynote:

When the Nobel Committee awarded Wangari Maathai the Nobel Peace Prize last November, they said it was for her "contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace."

We commend the Nobel Committee's recognition of Wangari. It is testament to what we've long believed, namely that the Environmental Prize was conceived to demonstrate that the protection of the environment is fundamental to achieving world peace. As such, Wangari was honored with the Prize for Africa in 1991, and received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004.

And yet, in recent years, this simple but important fact seems to have been forgotten by some world leaders. The global environmental movement has taken a back seat to the global war on terror, even though both are, seemingly, a means to the same end; world stability and peace.

Leading experts warn that the war on terror is diverting world attention away from the root causes of global instability. It is, rather, environmental degradation, disease, poverty, and the rising competition for oil that are at the root of the world's woes. Terrorism is but a symptom.

People around the world rely on access to clean water, clean air, healthy oceans, forests, and fertile land. When this access is lost or jeopardized the result is instability which in turn breeds conflict, extremism, terrorism and war. A U.N. official recently observed that, in the past, the environment was viewed as a luxury. But now, it is becoming clear that without a healthy and stable environment, it is not possible to have long-lasting economic and social development, let alone, eradicate poverty and hunger.

The protection of the environment must again become a global priority and the United States must again take the lead. We are the world's richest nation. We are the world leader in technological innovation. We have the resources. We have the know-how. It is but a matter of political will and foresight.

More public and private investments must be made in the research and development of clean, renewable and sustainable energy. The potential benefits are immediate and enormous. New jobs would be created, and our economy would begin a transformation away from dependence on fossil fuels.

Oil is fuel for old technologies. Drilling for more of it in the Arctic will only serve to keep us chained to the past. As it has been said many times; we cannot drill our way out of this crisis. We have to invent our way out.

We need only to look at the global relief effort that followed the horrific Indian Ocean Tsunami disaster to see what a united world can achieve. The outpouring of money, supplies, expertise and manpower from governments, corporations and individuals is unprecedented. It has been stated that "the response to the tsunami gave us a glimpse of the power of humanity."

We share this planet. We share its resources. It is our shared responsibility to act. It is time to harness and apply the power of humanity to solve our problems.

We must not let terrorism, nor the threat of it, blind us to the very real perils of environmental decline.

Peace on earth depends on our ability to protect the earth. We have no choice.

To continue to receive this newsletter... **We Invite You to Join /Rejoin Us**

\$20.00 Individual
\$10.00 Student/Senior
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MVPP is registered with the IRS as a non-profit organization. MVPP Contributions are tax deductible. **"2004" on your mailing label indicates that your membership is paid only through May 31, 2004. 2005 means you are paid till May 2005.** We now have more than 100, counting family members within a member group. Last year, approximately one third of those members joined/renewed at higher than the basic rate.

Editor's note: 6 MVPP members—Becci Backman, Arthur Brien, Margaret Brien, Bobbie Goldman, Brenda McCarthy, and Boryana Tacconi-- took the UJP bus to New York on May 1 to join the international throng that marched and rallied in support of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the future of which is now under major review at the United Nations. The following article provides a useful perspective at this very critical moment in the Nuclear Age. The June issue of our newsletter will carry further news about May 1 and the NPT.

Does the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Have a Future?

http://www.wagingpeace.org/articles/2005/03/21_wittner_does_npt-have-future.htm

by Lawrence S. Wittner, Professor of History, State University of New York/Albany
March 21, 2005

This May, the United Nations will be holding a review conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), a key nuclear arms control and disarmament agreement to which 188 countries are now parties.

Originally proposed by the U.S. and Soviet governments, the NPT was signed at the United Nations in 1968 and went into force in 1970. Under its provisions, non-nuclear nations agreed to renounce the development of nuclear weapons and nuclear-armed nations agreed to divest themselves of their nuclear weapons through good faith negotiations for nuclear disarmament. In this fashion, nations on both sides of the Cold War divide signaled their intention to halt the nuclear arms race and move toward a nuclear-free world.

For decades, there was substantial progress along these lines. Non-nuclear nations refrained from building nuclear weapons. And the nuclear powers signed a series of important nuclear arms control and disarmament treaties: the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty; two Strategic Arms Limitation Treaties; the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty; two Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties; and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. At times, they even reduced their nuclear forces unilaterally. As a result, by the late 1990s, no additional nations belonged to the nuclear club, while the number of nuclear weapons deployed by the nuclear nations or in their stockpiles declined dramatically.

Starting in 1998, however, the nuclear arms race began to revive. Determined to place their nations within the ranks of the nuclear powers, the governments of India and Pakistan exploded their first nuclear weapons that year. Since then, they have engaged in

dangerous and mutually threatening nuclear buildups. Other non-nuclear nations, including North Korea, took the first steps toward going nuclear, though the extent of their progress along these lines remains uncertain.

The nuclear powers also began to abandon their NPT commitments. In 1999, the U.S. Senate stunned much of the world, including U.S. allies, by rejecting ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Taking office in 2001, the administration of George W. Bush withdrew the United States from the ABM Treaty, opposed ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, began deployment of a missile defense system, pressed for the development of new U.S. nuclear weapons, and abandoned negotiations for nuclear disarmament. Responding sharply to U.S. withdrawal from the ABM Treaty and U.S. plans for missile defense, the Russian government announced its intention to deploy a new generation of nuclear missiles. And China might not be far behind.

Why has there been a reversal of earlier progress toward a nuclear-free world?

A key factor behind the turnabout is the decline of popular pressure for nuclear disarmament.

Rival nations--and before their existence, rival territories--have always gravitated toward military buildups. This is based on the assumption--what might be called the "old thinking"--that national security is best achieved through military strength. Not surprisingly, then, in a world of competing and sometimes hostile nations, governments are tempted to develop nuclear weapons to secure what they consider their "national interests." Thus, beginning during World War II and continuing during the Cold War, a growing number of rival governments commenced developing powerful nuclear arsenals.

Fortunately, however, the nuclear arms race of the Cold War era inspired widespread public resistance--resistance that took the form of mass movements for nuclear disarmament, feisty antinuclear marches and rallies, and public critiques of nuclear weapons by religious bodies, scientists, and cultural leaders. Polls found public opinion strongly opposed to nuclear buildups and nuclear wars. As a result, governments were pushed, often reluctantly, into agreements for nuclear arms control and disarmament.

But, since the end of the Cold War, the mass nuclear disarmament movements of the past have declined dramatically and

public concern about nuclear weapons has dwindled. Furthermore, much of the lingering public concern has been manipulated by cynical government officials to bolster their own policies—as when the Bush administration exaggerated the Iraqi government's readiness to wage nuclear war in order to justify its invasion of Iraq. Thus, freed of the constraint of popular pressure for international nuclear disarmament, governments gradually jettisoned their NPT commitments.

The situation, however, may be changing once more. Just as the nuclear arms race of the Cold War era inspired massive popular protest, the reviving nuclear arms race of recent years is beginning to generate substantial public opposition.

Much of this public opposition is crystallizing around the May 2005 NPT review conference at the United Nations, where nuclear and non-nuclear nations almost certainly will condemn one another for reneging on their treaty commitments. United for Peace and Justice (the major peace coalition in the United States), along with Abolition 2000 (a group focused on the nuclear issue), is laying plans for a nuclear abolition march and rally in New York City on May 1, the day before the review conference convenes. Noting that the NPT is "in serious disarray," the organizers of these events have called for "a massive demonstration" to "demand global nuclear disarmament and an end to nuclear excuses for war." Large antinuclear meetings and other related events are taking shape in numerous American cities, with prominent speakers drawn from political, academic, and cultural life.

International organizations are also focusing their efforts on the NPT review conference. Stressing the importance of the gathering, the Nobel Peace Prize-winning International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War is mobilizing for it as part of a Campaign for a Nuclear-Weapons-Free 21st Century. Mayors for Peace, an organization of top municipal officials from more than 600 cities around the world, has become particularly active in pressing the case for nuclear abolition. Headed by Hiroshima's mayor, Tadao Akiba, Mayors for Peace will be sending a substantial delegation to the NPT review conference for this purpose.

Thus, at this time of widespread uncertainty about the future of the NPT—and, more broadly, about the future of nuclear arms control and disarmament—there are signs that popular pressure is developing to put the world back on track toward nuclear disarmament. Whether this pressure will prove powerful enough to save the NPT remains to be seen. But there is certainly movement on this front. Fortunately, in the most dangerous of circumstances, people have a tendency to rise to the occasion.

Upcoming Events

Compiled with the help of Sue Imhoff

Workshop Series: "White People Challenging Racism: Moving from Talk to Action," Wednesdays, April 27 - May 25, 12 noon-2 pm, and Tuesdays, May 3 - May 31, 8 pm-10 pm at Cambridge Center for Adult Education, 42 Brattle St., Harvard Square. This course focuses on white people's role in dismantling racism. Those of us who are white may think that we're not racist, but racism is deeply ingrained in our culture. In this workshop, we will make explicit the systems that give us privilege at the expense of people of color and develop ways to stand against these systems. We will discuss short readings and videos, and share everyday situations in which we did not speak up

or act as we wish we had. Using role-play and videos, we'll develop strategies for effective action and practice them. Together we will draw up concrete plans for challenging racism in ourselves and in our communities. The day class (Wednesdays) is with Barbara Beckwith and Patrick Gabridge and the evening class (Tuesdays) is with Pamela Goldstein and Mark Schafer. Price: \$25, covers all 5 sessions and materials. Register at www.ccae.org or at 617-547-6789.

"Demystifying Human Rights: An Introductory Course for Educators," Saturday, April 30 and Saturday, May 14 at 58 Day Street, Davis Square, Somerville, MA. This 12-hour course will introduce high school teachers of history, government, or social studies, to the field of international human rights. Co-sponsored by Human Rights Education Associates (HREA) and Amnesty International's Northeast Regional Office. PDP credits are available. For more information: www.hrea.org/erc/Calendar/display.php?doc_id=2239.

"Peacemaking in Israel/Palestine: Is It Possible?" Saturday, May 7 at The First Church in Salem, 316 Essex Street, Salem, MA; 12 noon-4 pm. Sponsored by Friends of Sabeel-North America. Featuring "Beyond the Wall in Israel/Palestine" by Nancy Murray, plus a choice of three workshops: "Life under Occupation," led by Hilary Rantisi; "Zionism and the State of Israel," led by Peter J. Miano; and "The Occupation and the Law," led by Duncan Kennedy. Contact: 617-491-1236 or salem.conference@verizon.net.

CodePINK Mother's Day Call for Peace, Saturday, May 7, nationwide. Noted grassroots peace and social justice movement calls for several creative activities, protests, and vigils to transform Julia Ward Howe's 1870 Mother's Day Proclamation into action, especially re. counter-recruitment. <http://www.codepink4peace.org/article.php?list=type&type=47>.

Massachusetts Mothers Rally for Justice, Monday, May 9 at the Statehouse, Beacon Street, Boston; 11:30 am-2:00 pm. Rally, talk to legislators, and protest everything that threatens our survival—threats to housing, social security, medical exemptions, and more welfare work hours. Sponsored by Low Income Welfare Organizing Collective, Working Mass., Susan Roosevelt Weld, WILPFBoston, Susan Schaer, and Cambridge Eviction Free. Contact: 508-303-9960 or stephup@aol.com.

William Rivers Pitt on "Corporate Control of the Media," Tuesday, May 10 at Alcott School Auditorium, 93 Laurel Street, Concord, MA; 7:30 pm-9:30 pm. Noted author and managing editor/senior writer for the on-line journal, "truthout.org." Sponsored by The North Bridge Chapter of Alliance for Democracy. Admission free. Contact: 781-259-1173 or 781-259-8104.

10th in a Fourteen-Part Series: "Creating A Peaceful World: The Challenge of Oil," Wednesday, May 11 at Dover Friends Meetinghouse, 141 Central Ave., Dover, NH; 7 pm. Sponsored by Dover Friends Meeting: Peace & Social Concerns Committee, Seacoast Peace Response, and Alliance for Democracy. Tonight's topic: Crossing the Rubicon: The Decline of the American Empire at the End of the Age of Oil by Mike Ruppert, chapters 23 & 24. For more information contact Phyllis Killam-Abell at 603-431-8644 or pkabell@rcn.com.

Counting the Cost, Stopping the War--A Nationwide Protest Action, Sunday, May 15, nationwide. Initiated by grassroots peace activists in Philadelphia, this action is designed to illuminate the human costs of the Iraq War, especially to focus on the estimated 100,000 plus Iraqis killed and to provide support for

Iraq reconstruction efforts. Sponsored by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and endorsed by New England AFSC, Veterans for Peace, and the National Lawyers Guild, among others. For information: www.countingthecost.org/index.html or jgerson@afsc.org.

Critical Breakdown Youth Truth Workshop, Sunday, May 15 at 647 Boylston St, Cloud Place, Boston; 12 noon-6 pm. Youth Truth is a workshop where young people speak the truth from their own lives. First, you pick an issue that concerns you. Next, you work with B-boys/girls, spoken poets, graff artists, MC's, and community activists to create a performance piece on that issue. As part of the workshop, you have the opportunity to perform the piece you create live, on-stage at the following Critical Breakdown. www.criticalbreakdown.org.

Ross Gelbspan on "A Journalist's View of the Climate Crisis," Tuesday, May 17 at Alcott School Auditorium, 93 Laurel Street, Concord, MA; 7:30 pm-9:30 pm. Noted author of The Heat Is On and Boiling Point, who fights for climate protection programs that defend the planet and support sustainable growth. Contact: 781-259-1173 or 781-259-8104.

11th in a Fourteen-Part Series: "Creating a Peaceful World: The Challenge of Oil," Wednesday, May 18 at Dover Friends Meetinghouse, 141 Central Ave., Dover, N.H.; 7 pm. Tonight's topic: "The End of Suburbia" Video: Oil Depletion and the Consequences for Our Way of Life. For more information contact Phyllis Killam-Abell at 603-431-8644 or pkabell@rcn.com.

Presentation by John Perkins, Author of Confessions of an Economic Hit Man, Thursday, May 19 at the chapel at Tilton School, Tilton, NH; 7 pm. Sponsored by NH Peace Action, AFSC, Seacoast Peace Response, and Lakes Region Peace and Justice. For more information about the event, contact Anne Miller at NH Peace Action anne@nhpeaceaction.org, 603-228-0559.

"Imaging a World with Nonviolent Peace Forces instead of Armies: How Do We Get There?" Saturday, May 21 at Friends Meeting, 5 Longfellow Park (off Brattle), Cambridge. The imaging model of Elise Boulding has been adapted to incorporate the work of the Nonviolent Peaceforce in visioning practical steps toward a more peaceful world. Sponsored by AFSC and others. Empowering and inspiring, with practical and realistic projects for peace and social justice work. \$5-\$15 sliding scale. For information: PeaceCulture@att.net or 978-562-3372.

New England Joint Action Regional Assembly, Saturday, May 21 at Parish of the Transfiguration, 107 Alsace Street, Manchester, NH; 1 pm-2:30 pm. The Anti-Displacement Project, InterValley Project, and Organizing and Leadership Training Center are organizing with their member groups throughout New England to secure funds for affordable housing and job training. This Regional Assembly with our New England Congressional Delegation is a centerpiece of the campaign. Contacts: Loren McArthur or Joy Cushman at Merrimack Valley Project (MVP) at 978-686-0650 or Ken Galdston, InterValley Project Lead Organizer at 617-796-8836.

Meeting of the United for Justice with Peace "Military Recruitment Working Group," Sunday, May 22 at AFSC, Cambridge; 3 pm-5 pm. The next in a series of important meet-

ings to organize effective counter-recruitment efforts in Eastern Massachusetts.

"Approaches to Peace and Conflict Resolution," Monday and Wednesday evenings, May 23 to June 29 at North Shore Community College, Danvers Campus; 6:30 pm-9:20 pm. This course, suitable for all ages from high school through retirees, will review causes of conflict and methods for resolving it, explore approaches to peace and non-violence, and investigate the lives of many famous peacemakers such as Gandhi, Chief Seattle, Martin Luther King, Leo Tolstoy, and Dorothy Day. Taught by Professor Hope Benne, long-time member of MVPP and Veterans for Peace of the North Shore. Information: 978-762-4000 Ext. 4155.

Summer Gathering of The People's Music Network for Songs of Freedom and Struggle, Friday, June 3 through Sunday, June 5 at Epworth Camp and Retreat Center, High Falls, NY. Music, workshops, networking, and songs of the spirit. Join songwriters, performers, lovers of music, and just plain, radical/activist folk for a fun, rejuvenating, and inspiring weekend in the country. Contact: Mary Kate Small at marykates-peace@yahoo.com or 978-474-0606. Further information: <http://www.peoplesmusic.org>.

"B.U. Is Bringing Bioterrorism to Boston!" Monday, June 13 at Paulist Center, 5 Park Street, Boston; 7 pm-9 pm. Public forum on the impact that B.U.'s proposed "bioterrorism lab" would have on Boston and beyond. Short presentations by two speakers--Daniel Goodenough, Professor of Cell Biology at Harvard Medical School, and Jonathan King, Professor of Molecular Biology at M.I.T.--followed by Q & A. Sponsored by Pax Christi Boston, Coalition to Stop the Bioterrorism Lab, Safety Net, and Alternatives for Community and the Environment. Contact: 617-442-7822.

"Many Stories, One Vision for a Nuclear-Free World," August 4-August 7 at University of Nevada/Las Vegas and the Nevada Test Site. Sponsored by Pax Christi USA and the Nevada Desert Experience. A national conference and public witness in remembrance of the 60th anniversary of the U.S. bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Contacts: info@paxchristiusa.org or nde_august@peacenet.org.

Books of Note

Recommended Reads, compiled by Don Abbott

Paul Farmer: Pathologies of Power: Health, Human Rights, and the New War on the Poor, University of California Press, Ltd., 2005, with a new preface by the author and a foreword by Amartya Sen. Written by the gifted and renowned physician and anthropologist, co-founder of Partners in Health in Haiti, called by some "a prophet of social justice." His central thesis: that a rising tide of global inequality breeds violence. And that violence and chaos will not cease if we do not address in a meaningful and durable way the hunger and disease and racism that plague escalating millions of poor around the globe.

Marilyn Nelson: A Wreath for Emmett Till, Houghton Mifflin Company, 2005. Illustrated by Philippe Lardy. A profoundly moving and exquisitely illustrated poem about Emmett Till, the 14-year-old African American boy lynched and murdered in Mississippi in 1955. Crafted in a sophisticated poetic form, a heroic crown of sonnets (fifteen in number; each interlinked),

the whole piece challenges us to speak out against injustice, to "speak what we see." The publishers classify the work as "juvenile poetry." It carries a poignant voice accessible to all older readers.

John Nichols, editor: Against the Beast, A Documentary History of American Opposition to Empire, Nations Books, 2004. An essential collection of writings, speeches, poems and songs from throughout our country's history--wisdom of some of America's heroes and patriots for peace and justice. A reminder that revulsion to war and empire has a deep and noble tradition in our land. Indeed, as Nichols says, "Anti-imperialism is old-fashioned Americanism...as American as the Fourth of July parade...apple pie...fireworks, and the flag."

Sonia Shah: Crude, the Story of Oil, Seven Stories Press, 2004. A skillful weaving of many facets of the story of "black gold"--its science, economics, politics, and social history. An extremely informative, easy to read, riveting account of the energy source that has divided the world into three camps: "the powerful, the powerless, and the power-hungry." How will we sustain our energy-intensive civilization as we draw down the finite reserves of oil?

Howard Zinn with Donaldo Macedo: Howard Zinn on Democratic Education, Paradigm Publishers, 2005. The noted historian's essays on education--many never before published--framed in dialogue between Zinn and Macedo, professor of education at U Mass/Boston. A source of essential insights into the role of education in a democratic society; a provocative reminder of the myths that feed public ignorance about our history; an evocation of what can be promoted in our society through the teaching of critical thinking.

Excerpts of Minutes MVPP Meeting: 4/26/05

*(See our web site for the postings of full minutes
<http://www.merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org/MinsApr05.doc>)
Don Abbott, Clerk*

Treasurer's Report: Peter reported that our current balance stands at \$5,673.75.

Annual Meeting: The date is set for Friday, June 17 at 6:30 PM at North Parish Church in North Andover. After discussion of various speakers, we decided to ask members of Military Families Speak Out, beginning with Nancy Lessin and Charley Richardson. Strong support was voiced also for Niki's suggestion of Jim Merkel, author of Radical Simplicity, Small Footprints on a Finite Earth as well as possibilities from Z Magazine's speakers bureau. Lou and Niki volunteered to assist planning committee members, Brenda and Boryana, in finalizing plans. We discussed plans to publicize the meeting and to invite guests, including members of regional peace and justice groups.

Nomination Committee: In preparation for annual votes on nominations of officers and board members, Bobbie appointed a committee consisting of Arthur, Barbara, and Jane, to present the names of candidates at the Annual Meeting.

Review of Upcoming Events: We briefly reviewed the UJP Brunch on April 30, the May 1 March and Rally in New York on the eve of the month-long UN deliberations about the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which at least six members plan to

attend. We discussed possible dates for meetings in Lawrence regarding supporting the Latino community in counter-recruitment efforts in schools. There was much support for the evening of either May 5 or May 12. (Subsequently, Bobbie confirmed that the meeting will be at 7:30 PM on May 5 at the Nobel Book Store, 466 Haverhill Street, Lawrence.) We also noted the May 22 meeting of the UJP Military Recruitment Working Group, from 3 PM to 5 PM at AFSC, Cambridge.

Planning for 60th Anniversaries of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: We devoted much discussion to fitting ways to recognize these historic moments in August 2005: including long marches through Merrimack Valley (or between sites such as Raytheon and BAE) culminating in gatherings for speeches and vigils and/or special vigils featuring candle boats. We recognize this time as an opportunity to join with other community and regional groups. Brian, Don, and Mary Kate volunteered to work with committee members, Boryana and Brenda, to investigate options and to report to the next monthly meeting.

Miscellaneous Reports:

1. DVDs of Iraq Veterans against the War. Bobbie reported that Noble Larson has taped introductory comments by Nancy Lessin and Charley Richardson. He continues to work on editing. A group of us, consisting of Bobbie, Peter, Arthur, Sue, Becci, Don, and Masood would be willing to meet to review his work when it is ready.
2. Peter reported that the Haverhill Peace Rally, planned for Gar Park at 2 pm and organized by Dan Wilson, is moving forward.
3. Mother's Day. We reminded each other of Julia Ward Howe's original Mother's Day Proclamation in 1870, which was a call for women to rise up and oppose war in all its forms and to work for peace and disarmament. This year Code PINK Women for Peace is calling for various actions nationwide, including vigils and protests.
4. We voted to co-sponsor the Coffee House, on the evening of Saturday, May 7, at the U. U. Congregation, 6 Locke Street, Andover, featuring Laura Imhoff and Zac Galen.
5. We voiced our prayerful concerns for two members living with cancer right now: Barbara Jordan and Sister Willie.
6. Jane shared wonderful news about Diyar, the 5-year-old Iraqi Kurd being assisted by Peace Vision Project. He is now in Jerusalem receiving treatment, and thanks to donations, some anonymous, his treatment has been largely paid for. Deep gratitude to Jane and Peace Vision Project. Our thoughts are with Diyar and his family during this critical period.

MVPP ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK SUPPER

FRIDAY, JUNE 17; 6:30 PM

NANCY LESSIN AND CHARLEY RICHARDSON
OF MILITARY FAMILIES SPEAK OUT
NORTH PARISH CHURCH, NORTH ANDOVER

Original Mother's Day Proclamation, 1870

By Julia Ward Howe

*Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts,
whether our baptism be that of water or of tears!*

Say firmly:

"We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies.

*Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage,
for caresses and applause.*

*Our sons shall not be taken from us
to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them
of charity, mercy, and patience.*

*We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country
to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."*

From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says,

"Disarm, Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."

Blood does not wipe out dishonor nor violence indicate possession.

As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war,

*let women now leave all that may be left of home
for a great and earnest day of counsel.*

Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.

*Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means
whereby the great human family can live in peace,
each bearing after their own time the sacred impress,
not of Caesar, but of God.*

In the name of womanhood and of humanity,

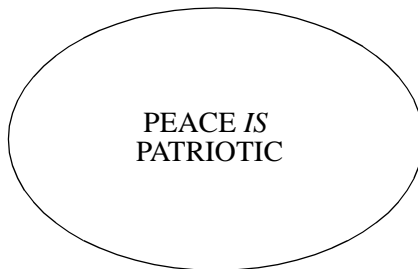
*I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality
may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient*

and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote

*the alliance of the different nationalities,
the amicable settlement of international questions,
the great and general interests of peace.*

Merrimack Valley People For Peace
P.O. Box 573
North Andover, MA 01845-0573

<http://www.merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org/>



The MVPP Newsletter is printed monthly and has a current mailing of 160. We are grateful for suggestions, comments, and help with publication. (2005 on your mailing label indicates that your 2004-2005 dues have been paid up to May 31, 2005) MVPP President: Bobbie Goldman. Vice President: Katherine Robinson. Newsletter Editor: Don Abbott. Newsletter contributors: Becci Backman, Arthur and Margaret Brien, Jane Cadarette, Bobbie Goldman, Sue Imhoff, Brian Quirk, and Boryana Tacconi.

CALL AND WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES & SENATORS TO MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN

Every legislator knows one letter is worth a thousand votes.

President George W. Bush

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500
White House Comment Desk: 202 456-1111
E-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

Senator Edward M. Kennedy

304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202 224-4543 fax: 202 224-2417
2400 JFK Building, Boston MA 02203
617 565-3170 fax: 617 565-3183
Form: <http://kennedy.senate.gov/contact.html>

Senator John F. Kerry

304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202 224-2742 fax: 202 224-8525
One Bowdoin Sq., Boston, MA 02114
617 565-8519 fax: 617 248-3870
Form: <http://kerry.senate.gov/text/contact/email.html>

Representative Martin Meehan (District 5)

2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202 225-3411 fax: 202 226-0771
305 Essex Street, Lawrence, MA 01840
978 681-6200 fax: 978 682-6870
E-mail: martin.meehan@mail.house.gov

Representative John Tierney (District 6)

120 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202 225-8020 fax: 202 225-5915
17 Peabody Sq, Peabody, MA 01960
978 531-1669 fax: 978 531-1996
E-mail: <http://www.house.gov/tierney/email.htm>

A link to all in US legislature:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/home/legbranch/legbranch.html>

How Senators and Representatives voted:

Senate: http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/a_three_sections_with_teasers/votes.htm
House: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2004/index.asp>

State Voting Information: Look up who you vote for at
<http://www.wheredoivotema.com/bal/myelectioninfo.php>