

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, economic diversification, and protection of the environment.

JANUARY 2004

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

We have a brand New Year! A chance to make good. A chance to make peace, a chance to do justice. A chance to begin again.

Victory for UMass Professor Van Der Meer In the post-9/11 Patriot Act environment of growing government attacks on political activism, there have not been many victories for the Bill of Rights and civil liberties. But on Dec. 17, 2003, after many delays, one such victory unfolded. A judge ratified an agreement (for "pre-trial probation") under which all the charges against Tony Van Der Meer were essentially dropped.

Last April 3, Van Der Meer, a Black professor of

Africana studies at UMass Boston, was assaulted and arrested by campus police after challenging an Army National Guard recruiter on campus who had threatened student Tony Naro

as he handed out flyers for an anti-war commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination.

Van Der Meer objected to the recruiter's remark that the student should be "shot in the head" like Dr. King. Van Der Meer tried to mediate the tense situation, but what unfolded was chilling: the po-

Potluck Dinner – Fri., Jan. 9, 6:30 PM

First United Methodist Church

55 Peters Street, North Andover

(114 and 133 (near Burger King and Eagle-Tribune))

Please join us at our traditional January potluck dinner (bring an entree, desert or surprise) and voluntary donation towards Adopt-a-Landmine and a discussion about our priorities and future programming.

Come, join us, bring a friend!

lice told him to "shut the [expletive] up" and wrestled him to the ground. His clothes were ripped and his glasses broken. Five officers put him under arrest and brought him to the campus police headquarters, where he was chained to a wall. Later he was transported to Dorchester District Court, where he was shackled and put in detention awaiting arraignment.

Despite more than 15 witnesses who could testify that, in fact, it was the National Guard recruiter and campus police who were responsible for the altercation and any criminal activity, Van Der Meer was charged with assault and battery on a police officer and resisting arrest. He faced up to five years in prison.

While no charges have been brought against any of the others involved, both Van Der Meer and Naro are considering civil action against the National Guard and the UMass campus police for violations of their civil rights. The assault, battery, and wrongful arrest of Prof. Tony Van Der Meer outraged UMass staff, faculty, and students. A petition and letter-writing campaign demanding the charges be dropped was conducted worldwide. Students and others rallied on campus and packed the courtroom at every pretrial hearing.

This case raised serious questions about the right to free speech on campus and institutional racism. It highlighted how even a campus police department, in the new environment, is expected to play a "Homeland Security" role by repressing rights. The attacks on Van Der Meer and Naro are part of a nationwide, ongoing assault on the right to speak out against war.

MVPP Monthly Meeting - North Parish Church - Tuesday, January 27, 7:30 PM

Printed on recycled paper

Despite this victory, the battle for justice is not over.

Marriage for same sex couples The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court cited Constitutional protection for same-sex couples who choose to marry, which will end discrimination against gay couples regarding pension benefits, medical insurance, hospital visitation, inheritance rights and other legal protections.

Snowmobiles: "Keep Out" In mid-December, a federal district judge struck down Bush administration cancellation of regulations limiting snowmobile access to Yellowstone National Park.

The EPA in December decided not to remove federal protection from millions of acres of wetlands, repudiating an internal draft regulation that proposed withdrawing Federal protections from many isolated wetlands and intermittent streams, including many small waterways in the arid West.

Counsel "Yes" On December 18th, two U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals issued decisions upholding the rights to counsel of detainees labeled by the Bush Administration as 'enemy combatants' and held indefinitely. The decisions are victories for the Constitution.

Pressure Pressure Public Citizen reports that a federal appeals court has ordered the government to rewrite a rule that would have allowed automakers to equip vehicles with ineffective systems to monitor tire pressure. Tire pressure monitoring devices were required by Congress in 2000 but the Bush administration since then allowed for devices that would leave too many motorists unaware of dangerously under-inflated tires.

Human Rights, Mexico The UN released an unprecedented study of Mexico's human rights woes—from the serial murders of women along the US border to the continued use of torture by police—that it hopes will serve as a road map for government policy on matters including the criminal justice system and indigenous rights. It was the first time a government had invited the UN to peruse its human rights record and propose solutions.

Khmer Rouge Admits Past *Boston Globe*, Dec. 31 report from Phnom Penh, Cambodia: "A former Khmer Rouge leader, Khieu Smaphan, expected to face a UN tribunal acknowledged yesterday there is no more doubt left that his regime committed genocide. It was the first public admission of this communist organization's collective guilt."

Citizens for the Responsible Destruction of Chemical Weapons defeated the U.S. Army in mid-October when the Army canceled a contract to process VX chemical weapons agents to be brought from Indiana to a low-income Dayton, Ohio, neighborhood. The grass-roots organization reacted to the constant environmental racism when the neighborhood was targeted repeatedly for hazardous waste and landfills. VX is

Dr. Henry C. Everett

MVPP marks with sadness the death December 9 of Dr. Henry C. Everett, husband of Beverly Everett, who was an active MVPP member and editor of this newsletter until she resigned to spend time with her ailing husband. Henry spoke to MVPP at an MVPP annual meeting about his book, *From Adversity to Invincibility*, following its publication in 2000. He was supportive of MVPP and attended many of our potluck dinners and programs. He was named Psychiatrist of the Year in 2002 by the Massachusetts chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. He will be missed.

one of the many weapons of mass destruction (WMD) supposedly held by Iraq, the reason for invading that country, yet as of October there were 1,250 tons of the deadly stuff in the U.S. After the Chemical Weapons Treaty of 1997 in which the U.S. joined other nations to ban the use of chemical weapons, a deadline of April 2007 was agreed upon to destroy all such weapons, yet the government still must figure out where this dangerous process should take place – certainly not in the middle of a densely populated urban neighborhood.

More than 100 people protested the opening of the Dec. 15 Smithsonian Institute's new Air and Space Museum, featuring the Enola Gay, the airplane that dropped the bomb killing more than 140,000 Japanese during World War II. The issue was the absence of any mention of the bomb's devastation. Joining in the protest were Japanese Hibakusha, Dorothy Day Catholic Worker and Jonah House members, and many peace and justice people from the D.C. area, asking everyone to remember Hiroshima, and re-commit every moment to the end the horror and destruction experienced there, never to be forgotten.

On Dec. 9 a woman, a member of Faslane Peace Camp, entered the Trident missile area of the Faslane Naval Base in Scotland. The bandit alarm went off at 8 p.m. She perched on top of the police post at the entrance to Trident berth 12, where she remained until 11 p.m., eventually coming down voluntarily when a scaffolding team was arriving and she was offered hot chocolate by the Base Commander. She also spray-painted the entrance to the berth with "Merry Xmas from Faslane Peace Camp - no War." She has now been released after being charged with cutting a hole in the fence and remaining in a protected area.

MVPP members Mary Kate Small and Hattie Nestle were arrested Dec. 22 at BAE headquarters in NH for demonstrating against the largest defense contractor in NH. BAE

GRASSROOTS OPPOSITION TO THE USA PATRIOT ACT
226 Communities and States (28 million people) as of December 9, 2003

Massachusetts

Amherst	Arlington	Ashfield	Brewster	Brookline	Cambridge
Eastham	Leverett	Lincoln	Newton	North Adams	Northampton
Orleans	Pittsfield	Provincetown	Shutesbury	Wellfleet	Wendell

makes defense electronics under U.S. approved licenses. From 55-100 people protested while thousands of Christmas shoppers at the near-by mall saw the protest signs; eventually 11 were arrested, including veteran Ruth McKay, who is 84. The protest was endorsed by New Hampshire Peace Action, The Free Radical, Massachusetts Anti Corporate Clearing House, NH Churchwomen United. Speakers included Bruce Gagnon and Arnie Alpert. All will plead not guilty at a mid-January arraignment.

Granny D (Doris Haddock, 93) continues to traverse the country to register new voters, particularly working women. At the moment she is in Florida, and she has set up tables in front of discount stores, set up volunteer voter registrars inside companies, and is now taking over the jobs of working women long enough for them to register to vote.

Shirin Ebadi

2003 Nobel Peace Laureate

Oslo, December 10, 2003

© THE NOBEL FOUNDATION 2003

In the name of the God of Creation and Wisdom, Your Majesty, Your Royal Highnesses, Honorable Members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I feel extremely honored that today my voice is reaching the people of the world from this distinguished venue. This great honor has been bestowed upon me by the Norwegian Nobel Committee. I salute the spirit of Alfred Nobel and hail all true followers of his path. This year, the Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to a woman from Iran, a Muslim country in the Middle East.

Undoubtedly, my selection will be an inspiration to the masses of women who are striving to realize their rights, not only in Iran but throughout the region - rights taken away from them through the passage of history. This selection will make women in Iran, and much further afield, believe in themselves. Women constitute half of the population of every country. To disregard women and bar them from active participation in political, social, economic and cultural life would in fact be tanta-

mount to depriving the entire population of every society of half its capability. The patriarchal culture and the discrimination against women, particularly in the Islamic countries, cannot continue for ever.

Honorable members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee! As you are aware, the honor and blessing of this prize will have a positive and far-reaching impact on the humanitarian and genuine endeavors of the people of Iran and the region. The magnitude of this blessing will embrace every freedom-loving and peace-seeking individual, whether they are women or men.

I thank the Norwegian Nobel Committee for this honor that has been bestowed upon me and for the blessing of this honor for the peace-loving people of my country.

Today coincides with the 55th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; a declaration which begins with the recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family, as the guarantor of freedom, justice and peace. And it promises a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of expression and opinion, and be safeguarded and protected against fear and poverty.

Unfortunately, however, this year's report by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), as in the previous years, spells out the rise of a disaster which distances mankind from the idealistic world of the authors of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 2002, almost 1.2 billion human beings lived in glaring poverty, earning less than one dollar a day. Over 50 countries were caught up in war or natural disasters. AIDS has so far claimed the lives of 22 million individuals, and turned 13 million children into orphans.

At the same time, in the past two years, some states have violated the universal principles and laws of human rights by using the events of 11 September and the war on international terrorism as a pretext. The United Na-

VISIT: www.Merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org

tions General Assembly Resolution 57/219, of 18 December 2002, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1456, of 20 January 2003, and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights Resolution 2003/68, of 25 April 2003, set out and underline that all states must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism must comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights and humanitarian law. However, regulations restricting human rights and basic freedoms, special bodies and extraordinary courts, which make fair adjudication difficult and at times impossible, have been justified and given legitimacy under the cloak of the war on terrorism.

The concerns of human rights' advocates increase when they observe that international human rights laws are breached not only by their recognized opponents under the pretext of cultural rela-

tivity, but that these principles are also violated in Western democracies, in other words countries which were themselves among the initial codifiers of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights. It is in this framework that, for months, hundreds of individuals who were arrested in the course of military conflicts have been imprisoned in Guantanamo, without the benefit of the rights stipulated under the international Geneva conventions, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the [United Nations] International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Moreover, a question which millions of citizens in the international civil society have been asking themselves for the past few years, particularly in recent months, and continue to ask, is this: why is it that some decisions and resolutions of the UN Security Council are binding, while some other resolutions of the council have no binding force? Why is it that in the past 35 years, dozens of UN resolutions concerning the occupation of the Palestinian territories by the state of Israel have not been implemented promptly, yet, in the past 12 years, the state and people of Iraq, once on the recommendation of the Security Council, and the second time, in spite of UN Security Council opposition, were subjected to attack, military assault, economic sanctions, and, ultimately, military occupation?

Ladies and Gentlemen, Allow me to say a little about my country, region, culture and faith. I am an Iranian. A

descendent of Cyrus The Great. The very emperor who proclaimed at the pinnacle of power 2,500 years ago that "... he would not reign over the people if they did not wish it." And [he] promised not to force any person to change his religion and faith and guaranteed freedom for all. The Charter of Cyrus The Great is one of the most important documents that should be studied in the history of human rights.

I am a Muslim. In the Koran the Prophet of Islam has been cited as saying: "Thou shalt believe in thine faith and I in my religion". That same divine book sees the mission of all prophets as that of inviting all human beings to uphold justice. Since the advent of Islam, too, Iran's civilization and culture has become imbued and infused with humanitarianism, respect for the life, belief and faith of others, propagation of tolerance and

compromise and avoidance of violence, bloodshed and war. The luminaries of Iranian literature, in particular our Gnostic literature, from Hafiz, Mowlavi [better known in the West as Rumi] and Attar to Saadi, Sanaei,

Naser Khosrow and Nezami, are emissaries

of this humanitarian culture. Their message manifests itself in this poem by Saadi:

"The sons of Adam are limbs of one another
Having been created of one essence".

"When the calamity of time afflicts one limb
The other limbs cannot remain at rest".

The people of Iran have been battling against consecutive conflicts between tradition and modernity for over 100 years. By resorting to ancient traditions, some have tried and are trying to see the world through the eyes of their predecessors and to deal with the problems and difficulties of the existing world by virtue of the values of the ancients. But, many others, while respecting their historical and cultural past and their religion and faith, seek to go forth in step with world developments and not lag behind the caravan of civilization, development and progress. The people of Iran, particularly in the recent years, have shown that they deem participation in public affairs to be their right, and that they want to be masters of their own destiny.

This conflict is observed not merely in Iran, but also in many Muslim states. Some Muslims, under the pretext that democracy and human rights are not compatible with Islamic teachings and the traditional structure of Islamic

***"True patriotism hates
injustice in its own land
more than anywhere else."***

- Clarence S. Darrow

Center for Public Integrity (The Public-I) www.publicintegrity.org

America Coming Together, A voter turnout activist group www.act.org

Center for Popular Economics (CPA), Amherst, MA www.populareconomics.org

The Bill of Rights Defense Committee, an anti Ashcroft organization www.bordc.org

American Constitution Society, a liberal lawyers' organization www.americanconstituionsociety.org.

Center for American Progress, a liberal Washington think tank www.centerforamericanprogress.org

A Few More Websites

societies, have justified despotic governments, and continue to do so. In fact, it is not so easy to rule over a people who are aware of their rights, using traditional, patriarchal and paternalistic methods.

Islam is a religion whose first sermon to the Prophet begins with "Recite!" The Koran swears by the pen and what it writes. Such a sermon and message cannot be in conflict with awareness, knowledge, wisdom, freedom of opinion and expression and cultural pluralism.

The discriminatory plight of women in Islamic states, too, whether in the sphere of civil law or in the realm of social, political and cultural justice, has its roots in the patriarchal and male-dominated culture prevailing in these societies, not in Islam. This culture does not tolerate freedom and democracy, just as it does not believe in the equal rights of men and women, and the liberation of women from male domination (fathers, husbands, brothers), because it would threaten the historical and traditional position of the rulers and guardians of that culture.

One has to say to those who have mooted the idea of a clash of civilizations, or prescribed war and military intervention for this region, and resorted to social, cultural, economic and political sluggishness of the South in a bid to justify their actions and opinions, that if you consider international human rights laws, including the nations' right to determine their own destinies, to be universal, and if you believe in the priority and superiority of parliamentary democracy over other political systems, then you cannot think only of your own security and comfort, selfishly and contemptuously. A quest for new means and ideas to enable the countries of the South, too, to enjoy human rights and democracy, while maintaining their political independence and territorial integrity of their respective countries, must be given top priority by the United Nations in respect of future developments and international relations.

The decision by the Nobel Peace Committee to award the 2003 prize to me, as the first Iranian and the first

woman from a Muslim country, inspires me and millions of Iranians and nationals of Islamic states with the hope that our efforts, endeavors and struggles toward the realization of human rights and the establishment of democracy in our respective countries enjoy the support, backing and solidarity of international civil society. This prize belongs to the people of Iran. It belongs to the people of the Islamic states, and the people of the South for establishing human rights and democracy.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in the introduction to my speech, I spoke of human rights as a guarantor of freedom, justice and peace. If human rights fail to be manifested in codified laws or put into effect by states, then, as rendered in the preamble of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, human beings will be left with no choice other than staging a "rebellion against tyranny and oppression". A human being divested of all dignity, a human being deprived of human rights, a human being gripped by starvation, a human being beaten by famine, war and illness, a humiliated human being and a plundered human being is not in any position or state to recover the rights he or she has lost.

If the 21st century wishes to free itself from the cycle of violence, acts of terror and war, and avoid repetition of the experience of the 20th century - that most disaster-ridden century of humankind, there is no other way except by understanding and putting into practice every human right for all mankind, irrespective of race, gender, faith, nationality or social status. In anticipation of that day. With much gratitude. - *Shirin Ebadi*

Due to space considerations, November and December activities that MVPP members participated in concerning a replica of the Wall in Andover are not printed in this newsletter. The issue also proved to be controversial. We will discuss it in the February newsletter. In the meantime, you may view letters to the editor that concern the Wall/Israel/Palestine on our web page.

www.Merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org

Weekly Vigils

Lawrence, Saturday, 12-1:30 p.m., Broadway and Essex St., Lawrence Peace Coalition.

Raytheon, Route 133, Andover. Tuesday, 5:45-6:45 a.m.

Reading, second Saturday of the month, 11-12, Reading Square, Reading People for Peace.

Andover, Sunday, Noon-1, Shawsheen Square, Routes 133 and 28.

Andover, Mon, Wed, Fri, 7-8 p.m., Sat, 10:00-noon, Old Town Hall, Main St., Lou Bernieri 978-475-6847

MVPP is selling brightly colored peace flags from Italy! The flags are flying to great curiosity and interest at weekly vigils in Andover, Lawrence, Reading and Wilmington. The price is \$10.00 plus any voluntary contribution for MVPP. Contact Bobbie at bg@comcast.net to learn how you, too, can be proud owner of a peace flag!

Coming Events

Wednesday, Jan. 7 Several MVPP members and other interested people from the Newburyport area will attend a meeting with Representative John Tierney sponsored by Peace Action, to discuss Peace Action's Campaign for a New Foreign Policy.

Friday, Jan. 9 MVPP Potluck dinner (see page 1)

Wednesday, Jan. 14, 7:15 PM: Freedom Forum Series - Freedom Foreign Domination The United States, Democracy, Self-Determination in the Middle East Stephen R. Shalom, PhD, Professor of Political Science, William Paterson University St. John's United Methodist Church, 80 Mt. Auburn Street, Watertown. What is the history of US policy in the Middle East and what has it meant for peace, security, and democracy in the Middle East? What is the Bush administration vision of the Middle East and how does it differ from previous US policy? Professor Shalom as he addresses these and other questions.

Saturday, Jan. 17: 2004 Racism and War Workshop, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM at Cambridge Friends School. In cooperation with Peace and Social Concerns Committee and New England AFSC, Cambridge Meeting's Friends for Racial Justice committee presents a workshop on Racism and War. Workshop leaders will be Ed Rodman, of Episcopal Divinity School, and Baltazar Pinguel, of Philadelphia AFSC. Other contact information: Byron Parrish 617-731-2550; bnparrish@rcn.com.

Friday, Jan. 23, 7:00 PM: Pete Seeger and the People's Music Network for Songs of Freedom and Struggle (PMN) concert at the Cochran Chapel of Phillips Academy, Andover, MA. Saturday and Sunday of that weekend, PMN has chosen Lawrence as the site for its annual Winter Gathering, which will take place at the Senior Center on Haverhill Street. Each year the group gathers to share songs, progressive politics, etc. For more information, please call Mary Kate Small at 978-474-0606 or marykatespeace@yahoo.com. You can find PMN on the web at www.peoplesmusic.org. Tickets are on sale now and expected to go fast! All those who wish to go are encouraged to place credit card orders with Wood and Strings in Arlington at (781) 641-2131 or avoid the service charge by

mailing a check for \$15 per ticket for the concert to PMN/SFS at P.O. Box 3071, Andover, MA 01810 (may be too late already, check with Mary Kate by phone before mailing check). If you think you might like to attend the entire weekend gathering (\$80/scholarships available), the concert ticket price is included in that. Call or email Boryana Tacconi to request a registration packet: (978) 470-1362 or drbear@world.std.com
Sunday, January 25, 9:15 AM - 4:00 PM: UJP Strategy Conference at Northeastern University School of Law, 400 Huntington Ave. Room 97, Cargill Hall (corner of Huntington Ave and Forsythe Street). Cost: \$10.00, sliding scale, which includes breakfast. For more information, go to the UJP website, at www.justicewithpeace.org.

Saturday, February 7: Ski for Peace at Shaker Village in Canterbury, NH. Come and ski, snowshoe, or walk for peace and tell your friends. This sponsorship-based fundraiser for both AFSC and NH Peace Action was a great success last winter. If you want to participate or volunteer to help, or for more information, contact Greg Heath at grheath@totalnetnh.net.

February 21-22 in Boston: The Latin American Action Coalition is sponsoring the New England Latin American Solidarity Organizing Conference. The conference seeks to unite groups and individuals around the issues of Latin Americans in the context of globalization. Addressing such issues as global economics, American military/economic policy, immigrants' and workers' rights etc., they hope to bring together individuals and groups from New England to work together to develop strategies for addressing these complex problems. For more information, contact Patricia Riordan at patricia.riordan.1@bc.edu.

Saturday, March 20: Momentum is building across the globe for the Global Day of Action against War and Occupation on the one-year anniversary of the U.S. bombing and invasion of Iraq. Millions around the globe will take to the streets to say YES to peace and NO to pre-emptive war and occupation. Sponsored by United For Peace and Justice, www.unitedforpeace.org, 212-868-5545 and by A.N.S.W.E.R.

To continue receiving this newsletter

We Invite You To Join/Rejoin Us

\$20.00 Individual
\$10.00 Student/Senior
\$30.00 Family

Circle One

\$50.00 Supporting
\$75.00 Sustaining
\$100.00 Peacemaker

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____ Date _____

Return to: MVPP
P.O. Box 573
North Andover, MA 01845

MVPP is registered with the IRS as a non-profit organization
- contributions are tax deductible. "2004" on your mailing label
indicates that your membership is paid through May 2004.

MVPP Minutes, Nov. 25, 2003

Attendance: Don Abbott, Becci Backman, Lou Bernieri, Arthur Brien, Jane Cadarette, Peter Cameron, Stephen Cotton, Lynne Edwards, Lief Friedrichs, Paul Friedrichs, Peter Friedrichs, Michael Frishman, Ralph Galen, Bobbie Goldman, Barbara Haack, Fred Hyder, Lysa Leland, Gail Lowry, Juliet Kusi, Dorothy Misserville, Henry Misserville, Lucian Parker, Judy Peace, Brian Quirk, Kathie Robinson, Dilenia Rodriguez, Nikki Rosen, Boryana Tacconi, Jim Todd, Mary Todd, Jacob Zar, and Winnie Zar.

The annual Stone-Soup Supper, which preceded this brief meeting, was well attended by more than 30 individuals. Voluntary contributions in support of Oxfam totaled \$286.00 at the end of the evening.

Treasurer's Report: Peter reported a current balance of \$3,351.97, to which an additional \$220 was immediately added, representing seven gifts in memory of Alison Cepak and one recently paid membership.

Membership Report: Becci reported that we have 97 fully paid members and the register is growing.

Newsletter: The next issue will be in early January, with material due to Barbara by the end of December. Lou will pinch-hit on the following two issues when Barbara is away.

Upcoming Events: 1) Noam Chomsky's speech at Merrimack College on December 2, which we are sponsoring. We will have a table of information items on MVPP and key issues, but sales are not permitted. 2) UJP brunch: Lou reported on the recent monthly brunch, and urged us to pay attention to the call to all peace groups to become very clear and strategic in their main message in the coming months. Some members plan to attend the all-day strategy session December 7 (*N.B. postponed due to inclement weather to January 25, 2004*). 3) Witness at the Feaster Five Race on Thanksgiving morning; a

few members may be able to attend.

Endorsements: We voted to endorse: 1) Mass Peace Action Agenda, "Campaign for a New Foreign Policy" and 2) ACLU statement about the Patriot Act.

Programs and Events: 1) Jim reported on plans to begin to network with clergy in the Greater Lawrence Area, building to a possible breakfast meeting in early February. 2) The annual January Potluck will be 6:30 PM, Friday, January 9, 2004, at the United Methodist church in North Andover. At that time we hope to have general discussion about future program planning. 3) The Separation Wall vigil on November 22. We discussed the recently held event in the square at Old Town Hall in Andover, when we invited UJP to bring the representation of the Separation Wall and its accompanying information. We acknowledged that it had not been an easy decision for some to have us sponsor this, but it was strongly felt that we had provided an important service by highlighting this important issue, by sharing of information about it, and by encouraging dialogue. Many people who stopped by took away fliers and background information.

Gratitude to members and guests who so helpfully worked throughout much of the evening to prepare the mailing for the concert and workshops offered by the People's Music Network for Songs of Freedom and Struggle, January 23-25, 2004. MVPP is co-sponsoring the concert that will be January 23 at Cochran Chapel, Phillips Academy.

At the conclusion of the brief business meeting, we welcomed Jane Bernhardt who, assisted by Greta Bro and Peter Brotchie, offered a most moving and riveting presentation of portraits, narratives, and poetry of Hibakusha, from her trip to Hiroshima last August, a still transforming journey that we were privileged to have her share with us.

Respectfully submitted, Don Abbott, Secretary

Merrimack Valley People for Peace

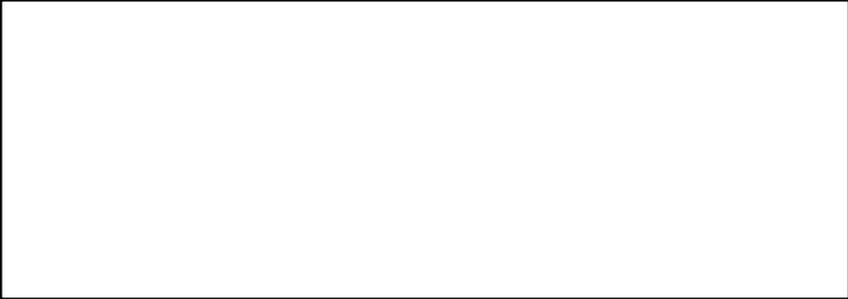
P.O. Box 573

North Andover, MA 01845-0573

www.Merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org

**PEACE IS
PATRIOTIC!**

**Pete Seeger
Plays Andover
Fri Jan 23!
See Page 6 for
Details!**



The MVPP Newsletter is printed monthly and has a current mailing of 120. We are grateful for suggestions, comments and help with publication. ("2004" on your mailing label indicates that your 2003-2004 dues have been paid.)
MVPP President: Bobbie Goldman Vice President: Katherine Robinson
Newsletter Editors: Barbara Haack, Michael Frishman, Bobbie Goldman, Lou Bernieri, Arthur & Marguerite Brien

**CALL AND WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AND
SENATORS AND MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN**

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

*Everyone knows one picture is worth 1,000 words.
Every legislator knows one letter is worth 1,000 votes.*

Senator Edward M. Kennedy

315 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
E-mail: senator@kennedy.senate.gov

Representative Martin Meehan (District 5)

2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC, 20515
202-225-3411 fax: 202-226-0771
305 Essex St., Lawrence, MA 01840
978-681-6200 fax 978682-6870
E-mail: martin.meehan@mail.house.gov

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
E-mail: john_kerry@kerry.senate.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