



## 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.

November 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"*

## Yes, there is good news

### **The peace and environmental movements are galvanized and stronger than ever.**

Many regular people who were never politically active got involved in the get-out-and-vote efforts that produced record turnout, offering true hope for the future of democracy.

**President Vladimir Putin signed the bill Nov. 5 confirming Russia's ratification of the Kyoto Protocol**, clearing the way for the global climate pact to come into force next year. Both houses of parliament last month ratified the protocol, which aims to stem global warming by reducing greenhouse-gas emissions

**Union of Concerned Scientists: Good news from Colorado.** In the first-ever opportunity for citizens to vote on renewable energy standards, UCS and a coalition of groups in the state secured a victory that requires utilities to provide 10 percent of their electricity from wind, solar and other clean energy sources by 2015. Much like the historic climate change regulations that were passed in California, this success will be an effective tool for leveraging clean energy and clean air initiatives in other states and at the federal level.

**The National Museum of the American Indian** opened on the National Mall between the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum and U.S. Capitol, Sep. 21. According to the Washington Spectator, Oct 15, 2004, "Richard West, the NMAI director, has said that 'native peoples want to remove themselves from the category of cultural relics, and instead, be seen and interpreted as peoples and cultures with a deep past that are very much alive today. They want the opportunity to speak directly to our audiences through our public programs, presentations and exhibits-to articulate in their own voices and through their own eyes the meaning of the objects in our collections and their import in native art, culture and history.'"

**The Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)** has won a major victory with national implications for enforcing the Clean Water Act. The Vermont Water Resources Board ruled that all existing storm-water dischargers in five watersheds around Burlington, Vermont must stop polluting their local rivers and streams. These waters run into Lake Champlain and are the principal cause of the devastating pollution that resulted in massive algae blooms on the lake this summer.

Now, owners of all large stores and parking lots in these five watersheds whose storm-water runs into already polluted streams must obtain permits under the Federal Clean Water Act. The twist is that the polluters will not be able to obtain the now-mandatory permits unless they clean pollution from their storm-water runoff. This decision has immense ramifications because the Clean Water Act applies to all U.S. waters.

**Mike Miles, who came to the Andover area with the Wheels of Justice Tour Bus** late last spring, is delighted that he did so well as a Green Party candidate for the 7th District Seat of the House of Representatives in Wisconsin, ending "with 26,188 votes, which was 9% of total votes cast. Not bad for a campaign that didn't sponsor a single fundraising event and had no paid staff." Nationally, he was the top Green Party vote getter.

## Writers in MVPP

The day after the election, MVPP members felt the need to be together, to embrace and mourn. Fourteen came to the Andover Wednesday vigil with candles and the following poems. Becci's prose is encouraging.

**MVPP Monthly Meeting – North Parish Church – Tuesday, November 23, 2004 6:30 PM Stone Soup Supper**  
*Printed on recycled paper* <http://www.merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org>

## For the least of these

So, fear has spoken again  
corrupting common sense of right  
and wrong,  
projecting onto others the evil  
in ourselves.

Afraid of terror, will we now get what  
we wish for?

So, gluttons trump hunger again  
muting shared longings  
for justice  
with peace,  
laying waste to gifts received  
and more  
to be bequeathed.

Afraid of our starvation, will we now choke on the riches  
we hoard?

Or shall we leaven our souls,  
rise  
and resist,  
for the sake of  
the other's child?

*Don Abbot, Nov. 3, 2004*

## Again with the Herons

What do I know of them, really?  
So little  
More than before the year began though  
I could pick one out in a line-up with snowy egrets and little blues now

When I came back here today I had no expectations  
Figuring they'd probably up and migrated with New England winter  
coming on  
But thanks to dear Annie needing a dog-sitter,  
We were back adventuring in Lawrence's one wilderness area

I heard kingfishers – at least one anyhow  
Saw what may be the pair of peregrine falcons that live in the city's  
clock tower  
- One of them soaring almost as high as the clouds -  
And I was pursuing some white-headed waterfowl to better identify it  
when  
TIMBER!!!! down came dead wood, up flew beloved birds

It was Annie who brought me to them in the first place  
When she needed care this summer  
And Annie who got me out in the woods again  
On one of the clearest, brightest, most pleasant of November days

From my time with her I learned how hard it is to see the great blues  
When they are sitting near logs by the water  
Their slate blue tint almost gray and practically impossible to discern  
From the shades of the trees in that swampy pond

Today's magic moment was a gift  
That we should be there when the tree fell felt providential  
Seeing the herons take to flight stole my breath away  
And all the bad politics and policies in the world lost their greatness  
On this day after the election  
I elected to walk in a peaceful place and was rewarded for my effort

Thank you wild and majestic birds  
For being you, yes  
But for reminding me of my own wildness, too  
And of the majestic planet earth that we love and will continue to fight  
for

*Mary Kate Small, Nov. 3, 2004*

## **Musings of an Activist**

By the time of publication, I hope that an investigation has been  
launched into all the 2004 election irregularities. It would be only fitting  
in a year when I, like so many, participated more directly in the  
election process than ever before. I knocked on hundreds of doors in  
southern New Hampshire, made countless phone calls and did data  
entry. I monitored Ward 2 in Dover, NH from 8 am to 7 pm on November  
2. Based on the results and my observations before, during and  
after the 2004 election, I refuse to feel defeated.

New Hampshire allows same-day voter registration. In just the ward I  
observed (Dover abuts Durham, the home of the University of New  
Hampshire), at least 450 students registered on election day! Many  
students had pre-registered. The turnout set an all-time record. It was  
astounding! The Moderator ran a very professional polling place,  
allowed all qualified voters (the students appeared with exactly what  
was needed to register) to vote and the totals were not suspicious.

If the election stands, I am very hopeful that the mid-year elections will  
be a backlash against the realities of this administration's agenda. Certainly,  
the election in four years will yield change, because of what the  
Bush policies produce. There will be no rapture, there will be continuing  
horrific loss of life in Iraq (and elsewhere?), there will be more  
ominous signs of global climate change, the tax burden will be sorely  
felt by the working and middle classes, and the blame will be placed  
squarely on the administration that has been the source of the problems.  
Sometimes the uninformed and misguided need to be swiftly  
kicked before achieving comprehension, and, if the election stands, the  
next two/four years will be grim for many who pulled the Bush lever.  
The rich will gloat and get richer, but many who were naive and  
unquestioning will have more difficulties as a result of their choice.  
The process of developing critical thinking is slow and frequently painful.  
We are evolving human beings, and anyone who studies nature,  
knows that evolution is a slow and bumpy process.

The key is to remain active! The world is run by those who show up.  
For a very long time the wealthy have made the rules and created a  
structure where the masses are simply their drones. One hundred years  
of reform have shown that we are better than that, but the selfish and  
powerful are making one last stand. So far they've succeeded, but it's  
been done solely through lies, deception, creating meaningless fear and  
appealing to those who yearn for simple answers to complex issues.  
They can't win honestly.

So we'll keep shining the light of truth on the issues and, eventually, things will shift. It has happened before, and it most assuredly will happen again.

Becci Backman

## Recent Events

**October 16** - Eleven MVPP members were among those who gathered to meet Stuart Leiderman at the home of Jane and Jack Cadarette. Leiderman is an expert regarding the Mesopotamian Marshes of Southern Iraq and is finishing up a doctoral program at the University of New Hampshire on Environmental Refugees and Ecological Restoration. He spoke of the global, environmental and humanitarian catastrophe that Saddam Hussein created following the first Gulf War. He also explained the behind-the-scenes work for the restoration of the marshes that organizations, scientists and individuals are poised to begin, with the help of the Ma'dans, when it is safe to do so. Ma'dans are the Marsh Arabs for whom the marshes were home. This indigenous people's presence on the marshes can be traced back 5,000 years. Some of the half million of them now in exile are languishing in refugee camps in Iran or scattered on land in Iraq and elsewhere. Later, Leiderman was persuaded to play his guitar and sing a few of his original songs including "The General Election Blues." The informative and enjoyable gathering concluded with a potluck supper. Contact information: Stuart M. Leiderman, "Environmental Refugees and Ecological Restoration" Environmental Response/4th World Project P.O. Box 382, Durham, New Hampshire USA 03824 [leidermn@christa.unh.edu](mailto:leidermn@christa.unh.edu) [leiderman@mindspring.com](mailto:leiderman@mindspring.com) 603.776.0055

**October 19** - MVPP sponsored ECONOMIC JUSTICE? WAR AND THE ECONOMY, a forum with Mike Prokosch. at Memorial Hall Library, Andover, Mass. Prokosch spent the last five years coordinating the global economy program at United for a Fair Economy, which is a national, independent, nonpartisan, non-profit organization. His talk was interspersed with group activities that made his points clear and easily understood. He urged the audience to work with others for economic justice.

**October 26** - MVPP members Mary and Jim Todd met with students of Merrimack College's Religion 101 class at the request of Professor Susan Scholtz. They were invited to make a connection between their United Methodist faith heritage and their social action against injustices. They shared a letter from United Methodist Bishop Grove that laid the foundation for people of faith to take direct action and make non-violent witness in public arenas. The bishop also suggested that President Bush should be judged by his United Methodist denomination for acting against the "official" positions of his own denomination in regards to, among other things, engaging in war and harming the environment. This was the Todds' second visit to this Professor's class. They previously showed a video on the use of depleted uranium weapons.

**November 2** - Brenda McCarthy invited MVPP members to join her at her home to await the election results. Attendees were grateful for the warm and friendly place, the camaraderie and the great food, all nourishment for the work ahead.

**November 3** - Thirteen people and a dog came together for an evening vigil in Andover. A truly therapeutic moment after a late night and anxious day waiting for the election results. We held our flags, sang together and spoke of the future. Mary Kate and Don read their poems. Becci and Thea spoke of working at the polls. There were

honks and waves from passing cars. We were together, fully committed to the work of peace and justice before us.

## Of Interest

### Tuesday was a dark day

Tuesday (Nov.2) was a dark day for peace and the environment. Our efforts to create a cleaner, safer world have been dealt a body blow. But today is a new day. And a new day brings new hope. We won't give up. We will continue to fight.

We will fight to end the occupation of Iraq and bring the troops home.  
We will fight to stop new nuclear weapons.  
We will fight to protect the air we breathe and water we drink.  
We will fight for a better world for our children.

*Courtesy 20/20 Vision, Nov.4, 2004*

### New Peace and Justice group

Jim and Mary Todd are starting a Peace and Justice group at First United Methodist Church in North Andover. The group will start with a six-week study of peace and justice issues, held from 6-7:30 on Sunday evenings starting November 14. The group will study the church's stand on war and peace and nuclear weapons and will discuss peace and social justice issues (such as poverty, human rights abuses, hunger, racism, the proliferation of nuclear and conventional weapons, sweatshop economics, the environment) and/or other issues that are important to people who come to the group. The booklet "In Defense of Creation" will be provided. Open to members of the church and community who wish to find ways to work for peace and justice.

### How to Persist: Acting Together

"Acting together is essential if we're going to keep on...Nelson Mandela and his fellow prisoners passing news from cell to cell on toilet paper...John Lewis's image of children holding hands in a storm...the mothers of the Plaza de Mayo communing in silent witness. There's no more key lesson if we're going to learn to persist: Isolation, whether physical or psychological, starves the human spirit; connection feeds and heals it. In her book Small Wonder, Barbara Kingsolver draws on this sense of connection to resist those *who say it's ridiculous to imagine that the world could be made better than it is. When I come down to this feeling that I am an army of one standing out on the broad plain waving my little flag of hope, I call up a friend or two and offer to make dinner for us. We remind ourselves that we aren't standing apart from the crowd, we are a crowd. We're a prairie fire, a church choir, a major note in the American chord....We're the theater of the street, the accurate joy of children's hearts, the literature of tomorrow's wisdom arrived today, just in time. I'm with Emma Goldman: Our revolution will have dancing—and excellent food. In the long run, the choice of life over death is too good to resist.*"

From The Impossible Will Take a Little While. A Citizen's Guide to Hope in a Time of Fear by Paul Rogat Loeb

## Poems

### "A Time for Peace"

by Catherine de Vinck

We can still make it  
gather the threads, the pieces  
each of different size and shade  
to match and sew into a pattern:  
Rose of Sharon  
wedding ring  
circles and crowns.

We can still listen:  
children at play; their voices  
mingling in the present tense  
of a time that can be extended.

Peace, we say  
looking through our pockets  
to find the golden word  
the coin to buy that ease  
that place sheltered  
from bullets and bombs.

But what we seek lies elsewhere  
beyond the course of lethargic blood  
beyond the narrow dream  
of resting safe and warm.

If we adjust our lenses  
we see far in the distance  
figures of marching people  
homeless, hungry, going nowhere.  
Why not call them  
to our mornings of milk and bread?  
The coming night will be darker  
than the heart of stones  
unless we strike the match  
light the guiding candle  
say yes, there is room after all  
at the inn.

### "NOVEMBER 11, 1918"

Brian's friend, Marjie, sent this on Veteran's/Armistice Day and I offered it. She wrote: My mother (1910-2003) wrote this during the Vietnam war-

When I was eight  
And walking home from school one day  
Town whistles of a sudden blared  
And bells rang out  
Until the world was deaf  
With celebrating sounds.

"There'll never be another war,"  
they cried...  
when I was eight.

*Margaret Bruce*

## From Granny D

A note of encouragement from Doris "Granny D" Haddock, who ran (and walked) for the N.H.Senate.. She won 34% of the vote without accepting any special interest funds, and brought attention to many critical issues.

Dear Friends,

The presidential election has hit many of us like a death in the family. We are wandering around today in a daze.

Well, we know how to deal with a death in the family. We cook food and come together to talk out our feelings and memories. Then we are able to move on and keep at this beautiful thing called life. So let's gather tomorrow night. Maybe you have a regularly scheduled meet up that you can turn into a potluck. Or maybe you can send a note out to your email list and come up with a place and time over the week-end. But let's do this. Suffering alone, or latching onto strangers on the street won't do.

Whether the gathering is in Florida or Minnesota, Maine or California, I think we all have much to talk about. Let's not be afraid to think big, like a new political party or at least new ways of organizing. Remember, we do what we do not only for the future outcome (which didn't come out last night!), but also because we find joy in the battle-- a poor choice of words, I admit, for standing up for love in the world. They can't take that one away from us, and they just gave us an invitation of historic proportions.

Sincerely,  
Doris

### "Peace Vision Project" Launched for Young Iraqi Teacher Blinded in War

**Merrimack Valley People for Peace took a big and generous step October 26 when it approved \$1000 to help start a fund for a young Iraqi woman teacher who was attacked and blinded while working for the Coalition Provisional Authority earlier this year.**

According to an urgent call for help sent to MVPP member Jane Cadarette, North Andover, attackers shot Ms. Ahlam abd Al-Husayn Nijim in the head and neck, causing extensive skull fractures, the loss of her right eye and severe damage to her left. She suffered in Iraq for three months before somehow reaching the Palestine Hospital in Amman, Jordan.

There, a neurosurgeon and ophthalmologist found "a severed right optic nerve and a severely damaged left globe." Their report expressed little hope that she could recover even partial vision. [The neurosurgeon, Dr.Nasri Khoury, is also the hospital's director and he has become known for his research and treatment of Palestinian gunshot victims. He believes they are suffering unusually severe wounds from what may be new and more lethal kinds of fragmenting ammunition used by Israeli soldiers against the Intifada. It is not known whether forces in Iraq are also using this ammunition.]

Ahlam's blindness came to the attention of an officer at the United States Embassy in Amman who has been personally trying to help Iraqi families. He determined that Ahlam might recover some vision if she were brought to an appropriate clinic or hospital in the U.S. He has offered to arrange a visa for her if others could find the specialists and money for her treatment and rehabilitation. His proposition was relayed to a supporter of Voices in the Wilderness who forwarded to Photos 'speak volumes,' says torture victim

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Return to  
MVPP  
P.O. Box 573  
North Andover, MA 01845-0573

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 only through May 31, 2004. 2005 means you are paid till next year.** We currently have 123 members, counting the family members within a member group, and last year, approximately one third of those members joined/renewed at higher than the basic rate.

Cadarette. In turn, she sent it to Stuart Leiderman, Center Barnstead, New Hampshire because they've been working together on a variety of projects concerning the future of Iraq, especially the fate of the ecology and refugees of the marshlands of southern Iraq. Leiderman is an environmental and public health educator and project specialist who maintains a large network of students, teachers, organizations and specialists for emergency response.

From a friend in Amman, Leiderman quickly learned that Ahlam is "a beautiful young woman" and a teacher, whose brother was trying to care for her while she attempted to recover from the past difficult months. He learned that two charitable organizations and two individuals had paid for her initial treatment, "therefore, it seems that she is someone important." But she seemed to be very lonely and "depression is really getting the best of her." Now that they have a direct phone number, Leiderman and Cadarette will soon arrange an international call to Ahlam to cheer her up and offer the good news of help from MVPP.

To replace her lost eye, Ahlam's doctors fitted her with a glass one. Leiderman and Cadarette do not know, however, what vision, if any, remains in her other damaged eye. Detailed answers to that and other questions about Ahlam's health and ability to travel will determine their exact plan of action. Already, they have contacted and compiled a list of willing eye surgeons and other specialists. The next step is to estimate the cost for treatment and follow-up over the next two years, even including the purchase and training of a guide dog if necessary. Their immediate goal is \$5,000 by the holiday season, and \$10,000 by mid-winter.

Ahlam's plight is not an exception; many other severely-wounded Iraqi civilians are continually fleeing to Jordan for medical treatment. Leiderman's friend in Amman wrote, "There are lots of cases like Ahlam's... I have been visiting other Iraqis in other hospitals...I hear very sad stories from them and I know they need all kinds of support possible. So if you think you can arrange some fund raising, I can film these people and prepare some good material and show it for those who like to help in the States or other countries. I have never done such a thing so I don't know what are the possibilities, but I know they need our help!" Further, doctors report that "there are lots of people

suffering in Iraq who are in urgent need of medical treatment but they can't cross the borders."

Cadarette will administer MVPP's start-up contribution and additional funds under a special account named Peace Vision Project. She says, "I expect that this project will not only be help for Ahlam. It will raise awareness of the true cost of war for thousands of severely-wounded, innocent civilians of Iraq whose own hospitals lack the equipment and medicines to treat them." All contributions will be gratefully received. Contact: Phone 978.686.5777; email <jcadarette@att.net>



"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seem invincible but in the end, they always fall - think of it, ALWAYS." – *Gandhi*

...So often the darkest hour is that hour that appears before the dawn...  
– *Dr. Martin Luther King*

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of MA has an initiative to get 100,000 signatures on a petition to oppose the PATRIOT Act. The organization has high hopes of having the signatures to present to the Congressional delegation and to the media in the run-up to the debate about the provisions of the PATRIOT Act that are due to sunset in December 2005 unless reauthorized by Congress. For a copy of the petition, go to [www.aclu-mass.org](http://www.aclu-mass.org) and click onto the Civil Liberties Task Force

## Weekly Vigils

**Andover**, Sunday, Noon-1, Shawsheen Square, Route 133 and 28 Lawrence Friends Meeting/Shawsheen Peace Witness  
asifferlen@sbra.com

Andover, Mon, Wed, Fri 7-8 pm, Saturday 10:45-Noon (In good weather, 10-noon),  
Old Town Hall, Main St, - Lou Bernieri 978 475-6847, lberneri@andover.edu  
Merrimack Valley People For Peace, Bobbie Goldman, bg@comcast.net

Andover, Tuesday, 5:45-6:45 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 133)

**Lawrence**, Saturdays 12 - 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 631-1218

**Newburyport**, Sunday, 12 - 1 pm in Market Square, Niki Rosen, 978 463-3208

**Reading**, 2nd. Saturday each month, 11 - noon, Reading Square, Reading People For Peace, Bob Connor, bobconnor1@yahoo.com.

**Rockport**, Wednesday, noon-1, First Congregational Church (silent for peace)

**Salem NH**, Saturdays at 12:30-1:30 pm. Corner of rts. 28 and 97. Henry Misserville, 918 470-0663.

**Salem, MA**, Saturday, 11-noon, Riley Plaza (by the Post Office)

*You can buy a Rainbow Peace Flag, or a button or a bumper sticker at a Saturday Andover vigil.*

## Photos 'speak volumes,' says torture victim

-Linda Cooper and James Hodge

"If you live through this, no one will believe you. No one will listen. No one will care."

For years, the torturer's words haunted Sr. Dianna Ortiz, an Ursuline missionary in Guatemala when she was kidnapped in 1989, blindfolded, burned with cigarettes and repeatedly raped. U.S. government officials tried to discredit her. Others refused to believe that her torture came at the hands of Guatemalan security forces operating under the direction of an American.

Until the release of pictures showing U.S. military personnel torturing Iraqis at Abu Ghraib prison, Ortiz told NCR many Americans were skeptical about their government's being involved in torture. "But photographs speak volumes, they're really worth a thousand words."

When she first saw the photographs of hooded Iraqis being sexually humiliated, of vicious dogs within inches of the faces of the detainees, Ortiz started reliving her own torture. "When all these photographs came out," said Ortiz, now the head of Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition International, "I can't tell you how many survivors, myself included, traveled back in time."

"It's sad, but what we see in Iraq is not an aberration," said Maryknoll Fr. Roy Bourgeois, founder of a movement seeking to close the U.S. Army's School of the Americas, which has not only graduated hundreds of human rights abusers, but also used manuals advocating torture and assassination. "Hopefully, this is a teachable moment, when more Americans will be open to learning about what their government has been doing for years in their name with their tax dollars."

Like Ortiz, Bourgeois was once abducted by Latin American security forces trained and backed by the United States. The priest was a missionary in Bolivia in the 1970s during the dictatorship of Gen. Hugo Banzer, who had overthrown the government and operated torture cells around the country.

Bourgeois had earned the ire of the regime for organizing base Christian communities and visiting political prisoners at the request of the local bishop. Banzer's secret police abducted him one Sunday after-

noon and took him blindfolded to a cemetery. When he refused to provide the names of activists working for reforms, he was beaten and struck in the stomach with a rifle butt. One of the interrogators put a revolver to his head and kept shouting, "I hate priests." Bourgeois survived only because Maryknoll superiors were able to get the bishop to intercede.

Both Ortiz and Bourgeois were later shocked to learn that School of the Americas, now known as the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, had links to Latin American generals related to their abductions. The U.S. Army school had invited Guatemalan Gen. Hector Gramajo to speak at its 1991 graduation ceremony six months after Ortiz and 11 Guatemalans sued him under the Torture Victim Protection Act. Banzer was elected to the school's hall of fame.

Bourgeois had an awakening in 1993 when the U.N. Truth Commission on El Salvador released its report naming the officers responsible for the assassinations of Archbishop Oscar Romero, four U.S. churchwomen, and the six Jesuit priests. School of the Americas graduates lay behind each of those killings, in addition to the massacre in El Mozote, El Salvador, where hundreds of innocent peasants were slaughtered.

Not only has the U.S. Army trained brutal foreign militaries, Bourgeois said, but the CIA has helped set up foreign intelligence agencies like Chile's DINA, which was well-known for its use of torture during the Pinochet dictatorship and was headed by School of the Americas graduate Manuel Contreras.

What's more, he said, the U.S. government presented the prestigious Legion of Merit award to the two Salvadoran generals, Jose Guillermo Garcia and Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova, cited by the U.N. Truth Commission for their roles in the rapes and murders of the four U.S. churchwomen and later found responsible in a U.S. court for the torture of three Salvadorans, including Dr. Juan Romagoza Arce, who was stabbed, given electric shock, strung up by ropes and burned with cigarettes.

For Ortiz, the smell of cigarettes can trigger memories of being burned more than 111 times with cigarettes. She still sleeps with the light on.

“No one ever fully recovers from torture.” Ortiz said. “It just doesn’t go away.” That is the message she wants to get out at a time so many are arguing for its use in the so-called war on terror.

## Bremen Peace Award 2005

Crossing Boundaries / Breaking Vicious Circles \* Bremen Peace Award 2005 of the Threshold Foundation for exemplary commitments for justice, peace and integrity of creation.

Again persons, initiatives or projects will be honored for a special contribution in one or several of the following areas: Reconciliation, human rights, countering racism, social justice, integrity of the creation, cross-cultural or cross-religious communication. Award winners will be selected in the three categories below. Beside the money award of 5000 Euro each for one of the proposed persons/initiatives the Threshold plans again a publication of a limited number of particularly convincing projects taken from the overall amount of nominations in an English and German brochure to draw the attention of a worldwide audience towards such peace work.

Invitation for proposals in category A: Award for the Unknown Peace Worker. This category targets at little known, small initiatives/projects, but also at committed single persons working in the fields above with special emphasis for unconventional initiatives at the grass-roots level of peace work.

Invitation for proposals in Category B: Award for Exemplary Initiatives. In this category we seek for initiatives or organizations with exemplary commitment for the aims of the Threshold Peace Award described above.

Invitations for Proposals in Category C: Award for public contributions for justice, peace and integrity of creation. In this category an award will be given to persons in the public, who have shown sustainable and courageous commitment for peace and justice, like journalists or academics but also politicians or artists. For more information: [www.dieschwelle.de/content/englisch/peace\\_award.html](http://www.dieschwelle.de/content/englisch/peace_award.html).

**Letter to the Daily News of Newburyport**, Oct. 28, from new MVPP member Diana Philip

According to the New York Times, recent estimates by British Petroleum’s Energy Information Administration predict that non-OPEC oil-producing nations at current rates of production will run out of oil reserves in less than 25 years. Among OPEC nations, at current rates of production, the length of time reserves will last range from 150 years (Iraq) to possibly 80 years (Saudi Arabia) to approximately 12 to 15 years in Indonesia. Ever increasing demand and other factors will alter these estimates, and production rates will increase for some suppliers as others run out. Between 1997 and 2003, American oil companies purchased over three billion barrels of Iraqi crude oil during the United Nations Oil for Food program. It is easy to understand the oil industry’s intense interest in the Middle East.

Since just about all the stated reasons for attacking Iraq have proven to be false, it seems safe to assume that the one major overriding reason for the invasion was to acquire oil. The Bush administration does not want to liberate Iraq; it wants to own it. Rather than focusing on developing alternative forms of sustainable energy that will not endanger the

ecosystem that we depend upon to survive, this administration chooses to wage wars of conquest to dominate the dwindling oil supply, wasting American and Iraqi lives for the relatively short-term, short-sighted gains of Texas oil companies. In doing so the president has inflamed an entire region, caused tens of thousands of deaths and pushed untold numbers into becoming recruits for terrorist groups.

In war, hideous atrocities are carried out against the defenseless and the innocent as much as against the perceived enemy. Killing and brutality are the order of the day and there is no limit to the horrors engendered by war. To glorify war is vile. War is something to be undertaken only as a last resort and only in self-defense, not as a means to enrich powerful interests. In today’s world, the owners of those interests can shift their accounts and holdings from place to place without real allegiance to any country. They need only a base of operations. We are told tax breaks allow corporations to invest more and therefore create jobs, but are not told if these jobs will be here or somewhere overseas. The powerful may not need an America that persists in the genuine struggle for freedom and justice that is our heritage, but I do and I fervently hope we can be set back on that course.

*D. Philip, Newburyport*

## Coming events

**Call To Action: Shut Down the School of the Americas (SOA)!** Nov. 19 – 21, SOA is a combat training school for Latin American security personnel located at Fort Benning, Georgia. Protestors will gather again this year to continue together in the struggle until the SOA is closed and the policies it represents are changed forever! Friday, Teach-in, trainings, and caucuses will begin. Saturday & Sunday, thousands will gather at the main gate of Fort Benning for rallies, music, speakers and nonviolent direct action. For more information, visit <http://www.soaw.org>. or call 202-234-3440.

**True Story Theater: Creative Journeys.** Sun. Nov. 21, 4 PM. Art and Soul, 91 Hampshire St., Cambridge MA. True Story Theater is a magical form of improv theater bringing to life the feelings and experiences of audience members. Shows are humorous, profound, surprising, moving ... always unique! This performance admission is \$10 and features True Story members Christopher Mogil (conducting), John Lapham, Annie Hoffman, Lorraine Grosslight, Maria Pinhiero, Nancy Capaccio, Liz Kretch, and Ukumbwa Sauti. For more information, visit <http://www.truestorytheater.org>.

**Singing for the River.** Sun. Nov. 21, 3:00 PM, First Church In Ipswich, United Church of Christ. One Meetinghouse Square. As autumn colors fill the woods and Thanksgiving approaches, join musician Carolyn McDade and Friends to sing, celebrate and honor the Ipswich River Watershed Association's work to restore the Ipswich River. Sr. Willie Hurley and Ann Eno are members of the chorus of forty-five who sing of fields and forests, rivers and sea from their CD "O Beautiful Gaia." Free admission. The event is sponsored by the First Church in Ipswich and the House of Peace, also in Ipswich.

**‘STONE SOUP’ supper.** Tues. Nov. 23, 6:30 PM. You are invited to MVPP’s annual ‘STONE SOUP’ supper at the **North Parish Church**, (across from Old North Andover Common) to share a simple meal of bread and soup. We will be accepting donations of food for the meal and individual contributions for Oxfam America’s Fast for a World Harvest fund drive. After the meal MVPP will conduct a brief meeting, followed by the video **Hijacking Catastrophe: 9/11, Fear &**

**the Selling of American Empire**, which examines how a radical fringe of the Republican Party used the trauma of the 9/11 terror attacks to advance a pre-existing agenda to radically transform American foreign policy while rolling back civil liberties and social programs at home.

**Protest at Pease** Fri. Nov. 26, 12:45 PM: **President Bush is scheduled to appear at a Victory 2004 rally at Pease International Tradeport.** The appearance will follow a stop in Manchester at 10:45 a.m., according to a notice sent out by the Bush/Cheney campaign (Foster's). Protest plans are in the works. For more information contact Carol Tashie at [cztashie@yahoo.com](mailto:cztashie@yahoo.com).

**Choral Music** Sun. Nov. 28, at 4 PM A concert celebrating the original choral music of **Carolyn Brown Senior of Lake Mattawa** will be performed. the Sunday after Thanksgiving in Central Congregational Church, Orange, MA. Quabbin Valley Pro Musica and The Lake Mattawa Singers, numbering thirty-six vocalists, will present twelve of Brown Senior's original works. Instrumental ensembles include Pioneer Valley Brass, The Lake Mattawa Chamber Ensemble, baroque trumpeter Fred Holmgren of Athol, and pianist Gretchen Saathoff of Amherst. Tickets at \$12.00 or \$10.00 for students or senior citizens are available at Bruce's, Emily's Needleworks, and Haley's in Athol; at Lu's Flowers and Gifts in Orange; at New Salem General Store; online at [www.mattawasongcycle.com](http://www.mattawasongcycle.com) or by calling 978.249.9400

**Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Country**, Mon. Nov. 29, 6:30 PM, Old South Meeting House, 275 Washington Street, downtown Boston. While much has been written about the men who signed the Declaration of Independence, battled the British, and framed the Constitution, the wives, mothers, daughters they left behind have been little noticed in history. Cokie Roberts delivers an intimate and illuminating look at the patriotic and passionate women whose tireless pursuits on behalf of their families - and their countries - proved just as crucial to the forging of a new nation as the rebellion that established it. Contact Information: 617-373-5800.

**The First Annual MGA Anti-Corporate Holiday Party** at the Zeitgeist Gallery in Inman Square, Cambridge. Thurs. Dec. 2, 7.PM (show starts at 7:30PM). Featuring the first public performance of the rock musical "**Jesus Christ Terrorist**," starring the Reagan Babies. Tickets are \$20. For more information, contact [info@massglobalaction.org](mailto:info@massglobalaction.org) or 617-338-9966.

**Discussion on Zionism** Sun. Dec. 5, Sunday, 7-9.PM. **Paul Saba** will discuss and lead a discussion on Zionism—The historical tension between a single movement and a multitude of political ideologies and how that plays out today. Location: TBA

**Jewish American Medical Project**, presented by Seacoast Peace Response at South Church (UU). Tues. Dec. 7, at 7 PM: 292 State St., Portsmouth. Their medical project reports including video clips from their two delegations to Israel and Palestine are currently available on their website, [www.vopj.org](http://www.vopj.org). For more information contact Amy Antonucci at 750-7506 [amyla44@juno.com](mailto:amyla44@juno.com) or Vivian Bingham at 743-3774 [viviancool2@webtv.net](mailto:viviancool2@webtv.net).

**Annual BAE vigil** will be held from Fri, Dec. 10, 11:00AM Friday December 10th through 5:00PM Saturday December 11th. Sea Coast Activists will stand vigil for the full 30 hours, on the sidewalk, in front of the BAE Corporate Offices on Spit Brook Road in Nashua. (Exit 1 off of Route 3)

# Minutes

**October 26, 2004**

**Attended:** Becci Backman, Lou Bernieri, Arthur Brien, Jane Cadarette, Peter Cameron, Bobbie Goldman, Barbara Haack, Fred Hyder, Sue Imhoff, Brenda McCarthy, Brian Quirk, Boryana Tacconi, and Jim and Mary Todd.

**Treasurer's Report:** Peter reported a balance of \$5,243.04 (without \$160, brought in tonight).

## Committees:

**Membership:** Becci reported:

- We have 73 paid members, not including at least 10 active members whose dues are outstanding.
- October 1 was the date on which the filing to legally change our name to Merrimack Valley People for Peace, Inc. became effective.
- Don Abbot sent information regarding the name change to the IRS last week.
- Thank you note from Christen Mills, the Girl Scout in Chelmsford, whose event we attended in August.
- Alan Pogue sent photos and a thank you about Asra Mizyad, the fourteen year old girl who we aided in getting a prosthesis for her arm.
- Amnesty International asked that we participate in the annual holiday letter writing event. Jane volunteered her house, and Becci will coordinate those who indicated an interest in participating.
- Becci reported that the get out the vote efforts in NH by America Coming Together (ACT) were working well.

**Sales:** Becci:

- At Greg Brown concert in Newburyport, Becci's table netted sales totalling \$90.
- MVPP received a donation from Paul Kussmann, of Maine, in appreciation of Jane Cadarette's efforts to advance the cause of peace.

**Officers:** Bobbie announced that we have two vacancies on the board after the resignations of Susan Manning and Lee Bluemel. Barbara Haack and Brenda McCarthy were elected the terms.

**Newsletter:** -Barbara is resigning as editor of our newsletter. She will still coordinate the next newsletter and will help with the transition to a new editor. Lou offered to organize the newsletter if someone would be responsible for each section, but is unavailable next month. After a discussion, we had the following volunteers for the various sections:

- Good News Boryana Tacconi
- Upcoming Events - Sue Imhoff
- Recent History -Jim Todd
- Minutes - Don Abbott
- Of Interest/Action/Struggles/Quotes/Poems Fred Hyder
- Fred offered to take pictures for the newsletter.
- Bobbie noted that Ralph Galen and Don Abbott, who were not present, have also offered to help with the newsletter.
- Articles for the next newsletter should be submitted to Barbara and Bobbie by November 9

**UFPJ voter Education leaflets:** Of the 10,000 we bought, most have been distributed; mainly in New Hampshire, but also in Ohio and Florida.

**Website Changes:** Salem vigils to Saturday at 12:30-1:30. Raytheon vigil is later, at 6:30- 7:30 am, on Tuesdays.



-Catch up the Recent Events page.

Sue volunteered to help with the webpage in the future. Bobbie will send Brian updates of recent events for the past few months.

-To Post immediately: Vigils Monday night, before Tuesday's election. Boston's UJP encourages local organizations to hold events. (We signed on with the nationwide AFSC vigils after the meeting)

Bobbie shared plans for vigils, and various protests and proposed actions after the election if there is fraud, including Wednesday evening at 5. UJP will also have a debriefing session on Sunday, Nov. 7th at 3PM at Community Church in Copley Square.

Kerry will have a rally Tuesday night in Boston.

Becci and Bobbie will email details to Brian to post.

## Programs and Upcoming Events

Before the meeting, Brenda passed out invitations/directions to an election night party at her house.

-UJP Brunch:

Bobbie announced that the next brunch is scheduled for November 20, a Saturday morning, so people who attend church can go.

-Solidarity School, November 11-14 at YMCA Campground, Sandwich MA, Cape Cod. Peace, community, and labor groups will meet, to study and plan.

MVPP will pay for three people to attend that Saturday. Becci and Boryana, and possibly Peter

-Stone Soup supper November 23 at 6:30m at North Parish Church, North Andover. We will show a video, "Hijacking Catastrophe". Set up will begin at 5:30. Becci moved that we donate \$250 to Oxfam regardless of how much we collect that night. We voted to approve the donation increase.

-Sunday, November 14, Pat Scanlon will be performing at Boston's Community Church with Veterans for Peace. A veteran from Iraq will speak.

-SOA, School of the Americas protest at Fort Benning GA, November 19 - 21. We voted to provide up to \$200 for up to two people from here (Mary Kate often participates in the annual protest).

-A tour of Iraq Veterans Against the War is coming to the greater Boston area for 10 days in February to speak with various peace groups and schools.

-Eddie Kuroki, wants support and composers for his project to commission a musical commemoration for Hiroshima's 60th anniversary, next August.

-November 21 concert: First Church, Ipswich. MVPP member, Sister Willie, is in the chorus (and they have a CD) (See Oct. Newsletter).

-Jim and Mary will talk with students in an Introduction to Religious Studies class at Merrimack College, on the relationship of their faith to peace and social justice.

-Jim invited us to a class at his church 11/14 -12/19, Peace and Justice group that he has volunteered to lead at his church. "In Defense of Creation" will be used as a text.

## Donation Decisions:

**Israel/Palestine:** MVPP voted to endorse the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, and to donate \$100 ( annual dues) to that organization. This is a coalition including many US Arab and Jewish peace organizations. Among the members are Pax Christi and UJP of Massachusetts.

-November 29th is a Day of Solidarity; we are encouraged to write to Congress and hold an informational protest illuminating the injustices being perpetrated with the use of US funds.

-Becci will send links to Brian to put on our website.

- Becci will be the MVPP point person for the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation.

**Injured Iraqi Woman** Jane Cadarette made a five minute audio-tape presentation about a 25 year old Iraqi woman who had been shot twice in the head because of her work with the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq. Jane agreed to help when asked by Alan Pogue, Texas photographer and George Capaccio of Voices in the Wilderness. She asked MVPP for \$1,000 seed money. [ed. See article, titled on page\_\_\_. ] A discussion followed and members expressed their desire to help. Jim Todd said that he would lead local fundraising to replace the money, and members voted to give Jane the thousand dollars to use at her discretion.

**Special Meeting** There will be a special meeting to discuss donations, on December 7, 7:30 to 9, at the First United Methodist Church.

## Next Meeting:

The next monthly meeting will be held, with the Stone Soup Supper, on November 23, at 6:30 pm at the North Parish Church.

Respectfully Submitted

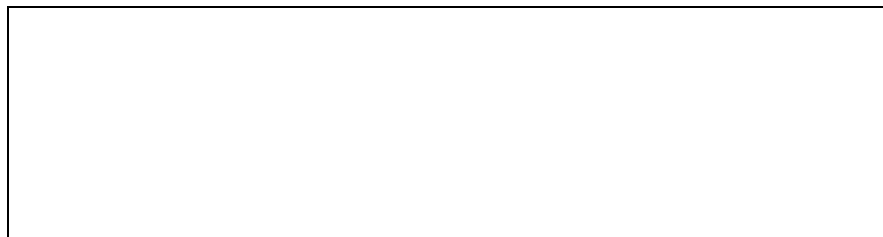
Brian Quirk, Acting Clerk, 10/26/2004

Mike Prokosch leading the economic forum



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 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 up to May 31, 2004)  
MVPP President: Bobbie Goldman Vice President: Katherine Robinson  
Newsletter Editors: Barbara Haack, Lou Bernieri, Bobbie Goldman, Sue Imhoff, Brian Quirk, Arthur & Marguerite Brien

## **CALL AND WRITE YOUR REPRESENTATIVES & SENATORS TO 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](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

### **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](mailto:martin.meehan@mail.house.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>

### **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>

### **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>

A link to all of **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](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:

<http://www.wheredoivotema.com/bal/myelectioninfo.php>

*Every legislator knows one letter is worth a thousand votes.*