



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.

March 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."

MVPP ACTIVISM

MVPP Supports Depleted Uranium Campaign

Thank you members of Merrimack Valley People For Peace for acting so quickly on the opportunity to cosponsor the INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO BAN DEPLETED URANIUM WEAPONS (ICBUW). It was my participation in the Veterans For Peace Iraq Water Project, also with your support, three years ago, that involved me in the issue of 'depleted uranium' waste being used in U.S. military weapons. I was in Basrah, only 30 or so miles from where much of the anti-tank weapons containing DU were used against the Iraqi military along the "highway of death." Much of the aerolized DU particles have since been carried by the prevailing winds and moved into the food chain so that many people have ingested these particles with a half-life of millions of years.

It was Jane Cadarette who introduced me to Steve Leeper in her home a few months after my return from Iraq. He was living in Hiroshima at the time and touring the US with the Hiroshima's newspaper's publication, DISCOUNTED CASUALTIES, which contained interviews with people involved in some way with DU. Steve now works for the Global Peacemakers in Atlanta. In 2002, Steve sent me copies of "Children of the Gulf War" to distribute. With my partner, Devon Hildreth, we dropped the "Children of the Gulf War" into every US senators and congressman's office in Washington a week prior to their vote on Bush's pre-emptive strike policy, and also assisted in dropping them into the offices of the UN member states.

In October 2003, another book was published, HIROSHIMA APPEAL TO BAN DU WEAPONS, as part of a new international concerted effort to ban DU usage in weapons. The director of the No DU Hiroshima project, Dr Nobuo Kazashi, who had sent me the initial package of "Children..." books, now contacted me to ask for my help in distributing this new publication and to appeal to peace and justice groups to cosponsor their project. Also, NGO's, governments and other interested parties can cosponsor.

I then checked their website, <http://www.nodu-hiroshima.org/indexen.htm> to learn about them and their mission statement. Fifteen organizations from 6

countries met in Beerlar, Belgium last October to create the ICBUW. Within weeks a total of 30 organizations had joined.

Since then, I have been in continual email correspondence with Dr Kazashi and Steve Leeper to receive air and sea shipments of 90 books, now all distributed, and to advise them on the groups I've approached to cosponsor the ICBUW. I have approached VFP, WAND, CSUN, AFSC and MVPP. Three chapters of VFP have joined so far as well as MVPP! If you have any suggestions, know of any group that may be interested and/or want to help, please contact me.

I think this Campaign can solidify peace and justice groups around the world to end what the Japanese call "the 2nd nuclear war". And maybe we can have the same impact on the world community as did the "Ban the Landmines Campaign. Never give up your efforts toward one world of peace. May Peace Prevail On Earth.

Tom Gale, mediator.

NOTE: At our last meeting of Merrimack Valley People For Peace, we voted unanimously to sign on for the INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN TO BAN DEPLETED URANIUM WEAPONS (ICBUW), and sent a small donation to Steve Leeper at the Global Peacemakers in Atlanta. We also bought 20 of the latest books, HIROSHIMA: APPEAL for BANNING DU WEAPONS, which have been selling quickly. *Feb. 27, 2004*



MVPP Monthly Meeting – North Parish Church – Tuesday, February 24, 7:30 PM *Printed on recycled paper*

MVPP Marks Anniversary Of Global Village

On March 14th, from 7pm to 8 pm, in front of Old Town Hall in Andover, MVPP sponsored a Candlelight Vigil to mark the first anniversary of the Global Vigil summoned by MoveOn.org and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the Sunday before the invasion of Iraq. At that time, nearly 250 citizens had gathered in the same Old Town Hall Square and lit their candles to witness for a different answer than the one that was about to unfold.

Many MVPP members and friends had been vigiling at this spot since the invasion, standing with candles, flags and hope--M, W, F, Saturday, and (Sunday in Shawsheen Square). This second March 14th vigil was aimed at widening the circle and filling the square again to overflowing and beyond.

GOOD NEWS

SCIENTISTS SAY ADMINISTRATION DISTORTS FACTS

By JAMES GLANZ: THE NEW YORK TIMES:
February 19, 2004

More than 60 influential scientists, including 20 Nobel laureates, issued a statement yesterday asserting that the Bush administration had systematically distorted scientific fact in the service of policy goals on the environment, health, biomedical research and nuclear weaponry at home and abroad.

The sweeping accusations were later discussed in a conference call organized by the Union of Concerned Scientists, an independent organization that focuses on technical issues and has often taken stands at odds with administration policy. On Wednesday, the organization also issued a 38-page report detailing its accusations. The two documents accuse the administration of repeatedly censoring and suppressing reports by its own scientists, stacking advisory committees with unqualified political appointees, disbanding government panels that provide unwanted advice and refusing to seek any independent scientific expertise in some cases.

GROCERY WORKERS WIN

Excerpted from the Working Families e-Activist website:

California grocery workers saved affordable health care benefits and beat back employer demands to freeze pension funds after holding strong on the picket line for five months. Some 59,000 members of the United Food and Commercial Workers voted in support of a new three-year contract with southern California grocery chains, including Safeway-owned Vons, Kroger-owned Ralphs and Albertsons.

This strike was marked by the heroism and commitment of these workers. In standing up for affordable health care, the workers put health care on the national agenda and sent a message to employers everywhere that attempts to eliminate health care benefits will come at a high price. The strike also raised the alarm for national health care reform.

VENEZUELA CEASES ALL TRAINING OF VENEZUELAN TROOPS AT THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS (SOA/WHISC)

Venezuelan Vice President Jos Vicente Rangel officially announced the decision to stop sending Venezuelan troops to the SOA in an address to the National Assembly on Thursday, February 26, 2004. In an earlier meeting with a delegation of U.S. human rights activists, Rangel stated that the SOA/WHISC is a training school for dictators, torturers and terrorists, and a country such as the U.S. which considers itself to be a democracy should not have such a school on their soil. During a visit of religious leaders from the United States in Venezuela in January, President Hugo Chavez also spoke out against the SOA as he stated: "This school [the SOA/WHISC] deformed the minds of many Latin American soldiers, who from there went on to become dictators." (El Nacional, January 19, 2004)

NRA IMMUNITY BILL DEAD

(excerpted from Stop The NRA website)

Whatever's bigger than a smile, do it right now. We've had a real victory. The NRA's hideous immunity bill is dead and it deserves to be. The bill that would have given immunity to Bull's Eye, the gun dealer who armed the D.C. snipers, and other reckless gun dealers has been killed. It's the most historic day for gun safety policy in the ten years since Congress passed the landmark Brady Bill.

ACTS OF RESISTANCE

Activist Hattie Nestel Speaks Out

The White House cover-ups of the health risks created by contaminants released by the fires of the World Trade Center and the denial of the health effects caused by depleted uranium munitions used by the U.S. military in Iraq have many similarities.

Shortly after 9/11/01, the scientists at the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, drafted a press release warning that high levels of asbestos, heavy metals and other contaminants released at Ground Zero would create serious health risk. They recommended warning property owners of this danger and recommending professional cleaners with protective gear would be necessary to remove these toxic substances. However, when the EPA ran its press release by the White House, it was rejected for fear it would hamper the "return to normalcy". Rather than the EPA, the White House controlled National Security Council issued a statement released on September 16, 2001, stating, "Our tests show that it is safe for New Yorkers to go back to work in New York's financial district". By denying the dangers inherent in Lower Manhattan air quality after the 9/11 attacks, the White House knowingly sent people into a highly toxic environment and downplayed the need for federal assistance in the clean up. Hiding facts gathered by the EPA has caused serious health con-

sequences to rescue workers, residents, employees, and even school children that went about their normal lives on the assurance that there was no danger to their health. Robert Gulack, senior counsel for the Securities and Exchange Commission, who developed bronchitis after 9/11, stated, "They rushed us back into contaminated playgrounds and schools and places of business. They took it upon themselves to decide what we would be told, and what might be too upsetting for us to know. And when New York City firefighters asked to have their stations tested for toxic contamination, the administration refused."

Now it is reported by Mt. Sinai Hospital that 78% of the Ground Zero workers suffered from lung ailments. One report by a private testing firm found asbestos levels of 850,000 fibers per square centimeter in the Woolworth building across from the City Hall. This high level of asbestos will continue to cause untold pain and suffering to many that live and work near the WTC site.

Those who have had health problems from this exposure are not receiving long-term health monitoring and medical care from the Federal government. We see the same practice of denial and manipulation of information going on in regards to the Iraq War. Reasons for going to war remain unsubstantiated. The war that supposedly ended months ago escalates daily, costing U.S. taxpayers over 180 billion dollars and rising. Most tragically, body bags pile up at Arlington National Cemetery, throughout Iraq and in other allied countries, while the administration enforces a ban on showing body bags or dead United States soldiers in the media.

Winslow Wheeler, who spent 31 years as an evaluator for the General Accounting Office, GAO, and a staffer for four different U.S. Senators wrote in the Washington Post on Oct. 10, 2003, "I spent a lot of time trying to use facts to influence decisions made by the U.S. government. The facts took a beating all too often. ...I've been reminded of this truth watching the current administration parry revelations that it manipulated 'facts' about weapons of mass destruction as a pretext for the war against Iraq..."

David Kay was not the first to report that Iraq had no more weapons of mass destruction. There were years of United Nations weapons inspectors who had given the same report. Therefore the United Nations Security Council did not deem a war against Iraq necessary.

The United States hypocrisy was while going to war against Iraq for Iraq's supposed WMD, we were using our own weapons of mass destruction. Depleted Uranium, DU, was first used in combat during the 1991 Gulf War and has been used in every war we have engaged in since then. Radioactive, chemically toxic depleted uranium munitions fail to discriminate between civilians and combatants and have serious health and environmental consequences not only for the Iraqis, but also for our military and the global environment.

Since the 1991 Gulf War over 10,000 U.S. servicemen and women died. According to government statistics reported in the

associated Press, more than 221,000 are on some portion of medical disability. Many have had children born with gross abnormalities. These veterans were mostly young and all had to have passed physicals qualifying them as fit for service.

Although we seem to have unlimited billions with which to wage war, we have scant resources available for the medical needs of those who have fought. Our military personnel are not informed about the dangers of DU exposure on the battlefield and are not given simple urine and blood tests to detect DU within the body on their return from Iraq. Their babies are not being monitored for birth defects. Although there are simple urine and blood tests available to detect the presence of DU in the body, this is not a mandatory medical procedure given to our returning veterans.

The World Health Organization has administered the Chromosome Aberrations Test to Kenny Duncan, a British Gulf War Veteran and was able to show damage from ionizing radiation he was exposed to during the 1991 Gulf War. His wartime job was to move Iraqi Tanks hit and destroyed by DU. He inhaled the DU dust and was poisoned by it. He was just given a medical pension by the British Government due to Depleted Uranium Poisoning. In addition, all three of his children have physical health problems since being born post Gulf War. Why aren't our veterans being given this test and why aren't their children being tracked for possible DU related birth defects?

Doug Rokke, a United States army colonel who was sent to the Gulf by the Department of Defense to handle the decommissioning of tanks that fired DU used in the 1991 Gulf War, received 5000 times the acceptable dose of DU. He now has slurred speech, dizziness, skin blotches and joint pain. He fought the Pentagon for over four years to receive his military disability allotment attributable to DU poisoning.

Our Congress has called for a complete investigation as to why this war was initiated. However, we are now faced with a coldly calculated "Intelligence Probe", which President Bush appointed to investigate whether or not he had qualified, credible reasons for believing that Iraq actually had WMD and had the ability to use them. How does the one being investigated get to appoint the investigative body? This biased commission is co-chaired by Judge Laurence Silberman, a Republican who is thought to have helped orchestrate Ronald Reagan's 1980 "October surprise" and who later overturned the conviction of Oliver North.

Others within the commission are likewise compromised by their closeness to the executive branch. Furthermore, President Bush has instructed this commission that no report is to be revealed to the public until after the 2004 election.

I believe that both the investigations by scientists investigating health issues after 9/11 in New York and investigations by credible weapons inspectors in Iraq have been manipulated at the highest level of our government. Because of the enormous impact on the life and death of so many here and in Iraq, I urge a

Congressionally appointed, bi-partisan commission conduct an independent investigation into how and why this Iraq war was waged. This investigation should be done in a timely matter, and not be withheld until after the 2004 election.

In addition, I believe we all have a right to know how depleted uranium has been used and how it has affected our military personnel. All our veterans since 1991 should be given the best possible testing and medical care if DU is detected in their urine or blood. The people of Iraq should be also be tested and compensated for the suffering DU has caused them.

Hattie Nestel Feb. 17, 2004 P.O. Box 248, Athol, Ma. 01331

Civil Disobedience At BAE Systems

Eleven peace activists appeared in Nashua District Court on March 4th from charges stemming from a December 22 civil disobedience action at the headquarters of BAE Systems' North American Integrated Electronic Warfare Systems division. The December protest was the largest ever at the BAE facility, which has been the target of actions held almost every year since the early 1980's. More than 100 demonstrators lined the weapons maker's entrance on Spit Brook Road with the message "No Weapons of Mass Destruction" as thousands of holiday shoppers drove by, many honking in support of the peace action. Halfway through the legal demonstration, the eleven civil disobedience protestors used titanium chains and padlocks to create a human chain, which blocked the entrance to the BAE facility for more than an hour. Nashua police using bolt cutters eventually separated the Chain Reaction Affinity Group members and took them into custody, charging some with criminal trespass and some with disorderly conduct.

The defendants include three high school students from Coe-Brown Northwood Academy, Katy Ables, Ashley Fahey, and Willow Mauck; two grandmothers Ruth McKay, 85 and Clare Gillingham, 89, Carol Tashie a disability rights activist, UNH student Aaron Friedman, George Corrette, Hattie Nestel, Mary Kate Small and Tim Anderson director of NH Peace Action.

MVPP Members attend Trial for group at BAE Systems

We recently attended a trial in a small courtroom in Nashua, NH. Eleven people were charged with disorderly conduct and trespassing at BAE (Nashua, NH) weapons manufacturer in December, 2003. This was not their first time witnessing there, nor will it be their last. The courtroom was full of other people supporting their friends and family.

We had a civics lesson from the prosecutor who explained the offences of the group, the court's position, his role, etc. In their plea of nolo contentre, the group would automatically be found guilty of the charges and each would have a criminal record. This is a weighty decision, as three of the group are still

in high school! However, The nolo plea allowed the group to read three prepared statements before the judge.

The oldest member of the group was 89. When she got up to testify, the judge invited her to the bench to speak because she was unable to hear him at the witness stand. She was sentenced to 40 hours of community service. Others received between 20 and 40 hours of community service.

At the end of the trial the three statements were read. When the 89-year-old woman read her statement, the judge asked her if she would like to sit to read her statement. "Why, thank you. That would be lovely" How gracious she was under pressure! These prepared statements were powerful, telling about the reasons for their actions. We urge you to read them at, www.merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org. (Click on recent events; scroll down to the bottom of the page under March 04 and read their statements.)

After court was adjourned the "BAE Eleven" and their friends moved outside for some personal sharing and Mary Kate Small, MVPP member, sang "This is My Song" (see words below - how appropriate, Mary Kate!), and the group ended by singing "Ain't Gonna Study War No More." Their voices were heard throughout the Nashua District Courthouse! We were proud and profoundly moved by the courage and dedication of the "BAE Eleven."

Jim and Mary Todd, Lawrence

"This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine. This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine; but other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine . . . My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine; but other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine. O hear my song, thou God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine

FOLLOW UP

"THE WALL". The Wall, from United for Justice with Peace (UJP), was displayed at the First United Methodist Church in North Andover as part of a program with Mary Lawrence, from the Christian Peacemaker Team in Hebron, Occupied West Bank. Mary is also an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church. She talked about her experiences over the past three years as a member of CPT. One of her primary responsibilities is to provide safety to children on their way to and from school because of the hostile environment in Hebron.

Her position on the wall is that Israel has a right to build it if they think they need it, but it should be built on the border of Israel and the West Bank and not on land Palestinian land. The wall separates the Palestinians from their farm lands, olive trees, sources of water, schools and places of work. See www.cpt.org

More alternative sources of news and information

Israeli and Palestinian peoples' efforts to build peace; sites from Mary Lawrence, of Christian Peacemaker Team in Hebron:

<http://www.rhr-na.org/> Rabbis for Human Rights

<http://www.icahd.org/eng/> Israeli Committee Against Home Demolition

<http://www.theparentscircle.com/parents/> Bereaved Parents Circle

<http://www.stopthewall.org/> protest organization

<http://www.peacewomen.org/campaigns/regions/westasia/israel.html> including Coalition of Women for Just Peace

and click on "CPT in Hebron" for more information on the Christian Peacemaker Team there.

DVD available of *UNCOVERED: The Whole Truth About the Iraq War*. at the Andover Public Library and from MVPP members. This hard-hitting film presents interviews with more than 20 experts regarding the reasons we were given for waging war on Iraq. Some supported the war but are deeply concerned about the way information was misused. All believe it is their duty to speak up. Among those interviewed are Ambassador Joe Wilson, weapons inspectors Scott Ritter and David Albright, anti-terrorism expert Rand Beers, former CIA analyst Ray McGovern, former CIA operative Robert Baer and Washington editor of *The Nation*, David Corn. Call Don Abbott (978 474-9253) for a copy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 20. Demonstration in New York City: THE WORLD STILL SAYS NO TO WAR! 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 on March 20th to say YES to peace and NO to pre-emptive war and occupation. Joining with growing numbers of military families and soldiers, we will call for an end to the occupation of Iraq and Bush's militaristic foreign policies. This will be the first time the world's "other superpower," as the New York Times described us, will take center stage since February 15th, 2003, when more than ten million people across the globe expressed their opposition to Bush's looming war on Iraq.

The US protests will also take on the war at home. We will express the growing opposition to the so-called PATRIOT Act, authorizing political arrests, indefinite detentions, domestic spying, and religious and racial profiling. We will call for an end to the mass detentions and deportations of innocent immigrants in the name of fighting terrorism. We will say no to massive military spending amidst vast cuts in vital domestic social and economic programs.

As of this printing, at least a dozen MVPP members are planning on attending the demonstration in NYC. We'll let you know all about it next month!

March 20 - April 4, March to Abolish Poverty, sponsored by the Economic Human Rights Project, Green-Rainbow Party and Sisters Together Ending Poverty. Participants will march through the lowest income communities in Massachusetts. They

are tentatively scheduled to come through Lawrence and Lowell on March 31, then on to Lynn, Salem, Chelsea, Somerville, and Cambridge, ending in Boston on Sunday, April 4. They anticipate marching 5-15 miles per day, and the organizers will travel between the communities each day. They will stay in halls and campgrounds and with people along the way. For more information, go to www.Abolishpoverty.org, or call the Economic Human Rights Project at their office in Davis Square, Somerville, at: 617-776-3895.

Wed, March 24. 7:15-9:15 COMMON SECURITY, with Phyllis Bennis St. John's United Methodist Church, 80 Mt Auburn St, Watertown. This is part of the Freedom Forum Series: FREEDOM from WAR. What is a plausible alternative to the Bush administration's policy of preventive war? In a world where terrorism is a real danger, how can those who believe in peace and justice assure their families, friends, and neighbors that security can be achieved without preventive war? An internationally recognized scholar, analyst, and activist, Ms. Bennis will address this challenge and offer an alternative vision: a policy of Common Security.

Saturday, March 27, Potluck dinner and video of the wonderful Spirit of Resistance Concert on January 23rd by Pete Seeger and The People's Music Network at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Andover, 6 Locke St, just off Main Street.

Sunday, March 28, 2:30 PM, O Beautiful Gaia: Love Songs To Earth, at the First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, 11 Garden Street, near Harvard Square. Ann Eno and Sister Willie will be among 46 women of Atlantic New England who will sing in chorus and community with Carolyn McDade and Friends. Admission is free; program lasts about 2 hours. Contact Carolyn McDade 508-247-9031 Chris Loughlin 508-699-7167

Saturday, April 3, Imagine Studios Performing Arts Series 2004 presents Michelle Shocked in Concert, with opening act Lucian Parkin, to benefit The Boston Social Forum, 7:30 PM at Newburyport City Hall. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$17 Day of show. They are available online at [@www.imaginestudios.org](http://www.imaginestudios.org); Imagine Studios, Kristine Malpica 978-834-0367, or kristine@imaginestudios.org MVPP will have our table of goods for sale at this event.

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 7-8pm, Saturday 10:45-Noon (In good weather, 10-Noon),
Old Town Hall, Main St, - Lou Bernieri 978 475-6847, lberniere@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.

Haverhill, Sunday 3-4 pm, Monument Square, Northern Essex Peace Coalition

Newburyport, Sunday, 11:30, in front of Unitarian Church on Pleasant Street, -Call Pat Hurzeler, 978 465-0697

Reading, 2nd. Saturday each month, 11-12, Reading Square, Reading People For Peace, Bob Connor, bobconnor1@yahoo.com.
You can buy a Rainbow Peace Flag, or a button or bumper sticker at a Saturday Andover vigil.

Saturday April 10, Death and Taxes Event. The Anti-Corporate Clearinghouse (MACC) will be sponsoring the 5th annual Death and Taxes event, held between the IRS building in Andover MA and the Raytheon plant located only ¼ mile down the road. It's the perfect opportunity to highlight the link between our tax money and military spending, as well as how corporations control political dialogue and foreign policy. Check out www.deathandtaxesfest.org for more info.

Friday, April 16 - Sunday, April 18, The Peace College, at Salem State College, co-sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Salem State College. An intergenerational peace activism conference with a focus on youth empowerment. Key-note speech by Scott Ritter, former UN Weapons inspector. Cost, for 25 and under, \$50, and for 26 and older, \$100. Greater Newburyport WAND is offering scholarships for youth and teens. Contact Barbara Hildt at Barbara.Hildt@verizon.net for more information about financial aid. Phone: 603-498-6185. Email: peacecollege@forusa.org.

July 23-25, the Boston Social Forum (BSF) at the University of Massachusetts in Boston- a coalition of Boston area, progressive community organizations, non-profits, and unions will be hosting what promises to be an exciting event. This will be an historic event, with 5,000 activists expected to take part, only days before the Democratic National Convention. Visit their interactive website at www.bostonsocialforum.org. They will begin to answer some basic questions such as what kind of future do we want for Boston? For our region? For our nation? For the world? What is our vision of a better society?

Through a series of workshops, cultural events, plenary sessions, and giant convocations of the entire forum, they are encouraging progressive organizations of all kinds to showcase their best analysis of the present, and their best ideas for the future, across the breadth of human knowledge— politics, economics, science and technology, culture and faith—in the context of corporate globalization. UJP will have a large role in planning some of the workshops.

MVPP MINUTES, February 24, 2004

The following were in attendance: Don Abbott, Becci Backman, Lou Bernieri, Arthur Brien, Jane Cadarette, Peter Cameron, Ralph Galen, Bobbie Goldman, Janice Koch, Brian Quirk, Kathie Robinson, Niki Rosen, Masood Sheikh, Allan Sifferlen, Mary Kate Small, Boryana Tacconi, and Mary Todd.

Treasurer's Report: . Peter reported a current balance of \$4,162.97. This total includes a recent donation of \$300.00 kindly sent by Mary Kate Small from the proceeds of the January concert of the People's Network, in recognition of the support given by MVPP for this highly successful evening. Deep gratitude to Mary Kate and her colleagues.

Membership: . Becci reported that membership has held at 99. She also mentioned that recent mail included a Certificate for Solicitation from the Office of the Attorney General of Massachusetts, indicating that MVPP is current with its filings with the Division of Public Charities.

Donations Voted: We voted to make \$50.00 contributions to each of the following: House of Peace, AFSC, Mass Peace Action, March to Abolish Poverty. We also agreed to add our sponsorship to the International Campaign to Ban Depleted Uranium Weapons (ICBUW) and to make a donation of \$50.00 to Global Peacemakers for this purpose.

Newsletter: . Kudos to Brian for his superb help in formatting the recent issue and to Lou for his editorship of it. Volunteers were sought, and several excellent topics suggested for the March issue, with submissions due as early as possible in the week of March 8.

Upcoming Events: . Numerous upcoming, regional events and activities were discussed.

Of particular note: **1.** Solidarity for Mary Kate and 10 other peace activists, Chain Reaction Affinity Group, whose trial is scheduled for March 4th in Nashua (NH) District Court on charges stemming from their December 22 civil disobedience action at the headquarters of BAE Systems' North American Integrated Electronic Warfare Systems division. **2.** Walk for A New Spring, sponsored by a Buddhist religious order based at the Peace Pagoda in Leverett, MA; we will feed and provide lodging for the walkers as they pass through Andover on Mon-

We Invite You to Join /Rejoin Us

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



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

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ E-Mail _____ Date _____

Return to MVPP P.O. Box 573
MVPP is registered with the IRS as a non-profit organization
-contributions are tax deductible. "2004" on your mailing label indicates that your

day, March 8, and we shall invite them to vigil with us on Main Street. **3. "No More Victims"** Candlelight Vigil, March 14, 7 pm - 8 pm at Old Town Hall Andover, sponsored by MVPP on the eve of the first anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. **4. Participation in the March to Abolish Poverty**, Lowell, March 31. **5. Concert to Benefit The Boston Social Forum**, 7:30 PM, April 3, at Newburyport City Hall; featuring Michelle Shocked (MVPP will display a table of its educational materials and sale items). **6. Death & Taxes Resistance Festival**, April 10, 12 noon, Andover, IRS Building (We voted to sponsor this and to support it with a \$50.00 donation.)

Miscellaneous Program Ideas: **1.** We discussed the offer of Dean Stevens, one of the featured performers at the January People's Network Concert; he would be willing to return for a benefit concert for MVPP. Strong sentiment favored a September event to mark the 20th Anniversary of MVPP, perhaps with other performers too. **2.** Kathie Robinson volunteered to spearhead planning for various ways to mark the 20th Anniversary over the coming months, especially to celebrate the important early leaders of the organization. **3.** Don remarked on the effectiveness of the DVD entitled "Truth Uncovered", produced by MoveOn.org and others, which documents the manifold distortions of policy and intelligence leading to the invasion of Iraq. He is giving a copy of it to Memorial Library in Andover on behalf of MVPP. He has two other copies and members are encouraged to borrow them for "house parties" or other appropriate events.

Annual Meeting in June: Members are asked to forward suggestions to Don for speakers and topics for the Annual Meeting scheduled for June.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for 7:30 PM on March 23.

Respectfully submitted, Don Abbott Secretary

POEMS

I Am Scared I am scared
I Am Scared I am scared
I Am Scared I am scared.
Because I know.
I know what this nation is capable of.
I know what this nation of nations has done.
I know what this nation has done multiple times in the past.
I know what this nation has been doing long before 911 (Sept. 11, 2001).
I know; I know that I am scared.
Not for the same reasons that you are scared.
I am scared because you are not scared.
Are you not scared because you are not of Color???

Alex Walking Bear
37 years old 19 year navy veteran, will retire in 2006
This war is wrong and People are dying because of the G.W. Bush administration

.....
"The poor tells us who we are,
The prophets tell us who we could be,
So we hide the poor,
And kill the prophets" - Phil Berrigan

Insets

Materials in the boxes that cross the entire pages are indexed on the left of the pdf document

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

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

**PEACE IS
PATRIOTIC**

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: Lou Bernieri, Bobbie Goldman, Brian Quirk, Arthur & Marguerite Brien

**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

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

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>

State Voting Information Look up who you vote for:

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