



# 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.

October-November 2006

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*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."*

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## GOOD NEWS

Boryana Tacconi

It had lately become an almost routine situation: whenever it was time to put the "Good News" together, it looked like there was nothing but nasty stuff happening all around. It took quite a lot of searching to scrape together a halfway decent section - and then submit it with the sinking feeling that next time there would be even less to feel hopeful about.

Wow. It is so different this time. Good News enough to fill an entire newsletter.

All over the country, people predominantly voted for candidates with an anti-war platform. The expression, "the elections were a national referendum on the war in Iraq" is all over the mainstream media. It is becoming a cliché already, and yet it still sounds refreshing.

Mr. Rumsfeld stepped down. I'm still pinching my arm from time to time.

Congratulations and thanks to all MVPP members who worked in campaigns, talked to people, wrote letters to the editor and made hundreds of phone calls in the last days before the elections. Now we need to brace ourselves for twice as much work ahead with the hope to be a part of some real changes in this country and in the world.

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**About forty students from Andover High School and Phillips Academy** gathered in the evening of November 10th in front of the Old Town Hall in Andover to **protest the Administration's detainee policy and the recently passed and signed Military Commissions Act**. Young energy, great self-made posters (the tombstone engraved "Habeas Corpus, R.I.P.", the signs saying "No to Torture", "No to Guantanamo" and many others) and a determination to work for change lit up the little square for over one hour, increasing the general hopeful mood after the elections.

The main organizer of the protest, Andover High student Charlotte Purcell, had earlier expressed her and her friends' motivation in a letter to MVPP members, saying: "As a citizen of this country, I am shocked and outraged by President Bush's New Detainee policy. The Military Commissions Act comes in direct violation of the Geneva Convention and basic human rights. It gives our government the right to use interrogation methods many people would consider torture. At Andover High School, students involved in the chapter of Amnesty International are taking action to show their dismay towards the detainee policy."

It was an impressive protest indeed and the young people said that it would be followed by other events. Congratulations to

Charlotte and her friends, and may they go on working for a world in which justice and human rights are much more than abstract ideas.

**Young people decidedly made their mark in last Tuesday's elections.** Two million more 18-to-29-year olds voted than in the 2002 elections, and according to CNN exit polls, 60 percent of voters under 30 cast ballots for the Democrats. Forty-three percent of young people responding to the Young Voter Strategies poll said the most important issue to them when deciding how to vote was the war in Iraq. Other important issues were education, the expense of college, and the economy. According to Kathleen Barr from Young Voter Strategies, the number one thing young voters were looking for in the 2006 Elections was change.

**Hundreds of US soldiers have signed a petition calling for a troop withdrawal from Iraq.** The document is to be formally presented to Congress in January 2007.

"As a patriotic American proud to serve the nation in uniform, I respectfully urge my political leaders in Congress to support the prompt withdrawal of all American military forces and bases

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**MVPP Monthly Meeting – First United Methodist Church – Tuesday, November 28 – 7:30 PM .**  
<http://www.merrimackvalleypeopleforpeace.org/>

*Printed on recycled paper*

## Weekly Vigils

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

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

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

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

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

**Nashua, NH** in front of Nashua City Hall from 11 to Noon every Sat. [www.nashuapeace.org](http://www.nashuapeace.org)

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

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

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

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

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

from Iraq. Staying in Iraq will not work and is not worth the price. It is time for US troops to come home," the petition says.

The campaign's web site, [www.appealforredress.org](http://www.appealforredress.org), says the petition is sponsored by active duty service members and by a sponsoring committee of veterans and military family members. It includes Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) and Military Families Speak Out.

**The United Nations called for an immediate global freeze on cluster bombs** following their intensive use in Lebanon last summer. The UN statement said that hundreds of thousands of people in Lebanon were at risk due to unexploded cluster munitions, marking only the most recent example of the devastating and lingering impact of this kind of weapon.

The appeal came at the beginning of a review conference on a global arms treaty restricting some types of conventional munitions, which has been ratified by about 100 countries. The International Committee of the Red Cross also made a similar appeal, calling for stocks to be destroyed and for a freeze on the trade of cluster bombs.

**The elections brought some remarkable victories for wildlife and farm animals as well.** In Michigan all 83 counties rejected a proposal that would have opened the first target shooting season on the mourning dove - the state's official bird of peace - which has been a protected species since 1905. Sixty-nine percent of Michigan voters said "no" to shooting doves, with the campaign receiving more votes than any statewide candidate.

In Arizona, voters overwhelmingly passed the Humane Treatment of Farm Animals Act.

The passage of this proposition by 62 percent of the vote makes Arizona the first state in the U.S. to prohibit the confinement of calves in veal crates and the second state to prohibit the confinement of breeding pigs in gestation crates. These two factory farming practices are famous for their inherent cruelty and are already banned throughout the European Union.

**Dozens of peace and community groups are launching a new post-election campaign this week.** The goal of the "Mandate for Peace" campaign is to push the new Congress to carry out the will of the voters to bring our troops home from Iraq and pursue foreign policies that promote peace and international cooperation. Participating groups include Iraq Veterans Against the

War, United for Peace and Justice, Voters for Peace, CODE-PINK, Democracy Rising, Gold Star Families for Peace, Pax Christi USA, Global Exchange, Network of Spiritual Progressives and many others. Through a petition housed at [www.mandateforpeace.org](http://www.mandateforpeace.org), press events outside the offices of newly elected Representatives, lobbying, rallies and other creative actions, the campaign will relentlessly hold Congress members accountable to the majority of Americans, who have long been saying that the Iraq war needs to be ended. For more information and participation at the campaign, please go to [www.mandateforpeace.org](http://www.mandateforpeace.org).

And the best news: we could go on and on and on....

## Recent Events

### Helen Caldicott in Newburyport

At MVPP's invitation, award winning Helen Caldicott spoke to more than 120 of us at Newburyport City Hall. Her message that we must resist recent promotions of nuclear power was well received. Her lively and charming personality energized the room.

Though she came bearing bad news, Helen optimistically reminded us that we can enjoy exposing dangers and preventing problems. She practiced her point that we have to make it fun for ourselves to stay active, and for others to listen to us.

The huge problem she is addressing on a recent book tour is that Nuclear Power wants to make a comeback. Though no new plants have been started since the early 1980's (after two disasters) there is again pressure to build them. The current administration has been promoting nuclear energy as an answer to global warming. Ms Caldicott refuted that idea, showing that the fossil fuels used to produce nuclear power would produce significant carbon dioxide and other global warming gasses.

The dangers posed by the nuclear industry far surpass its impact on global warming. Dr. Caldicott has seen increases in cancers due to nuclear plants, but melt downs, waste disposal, and uncertain maintenance over millennia are major threats.

Instead, she showed that alternative methods like solar, wind and geothermal energy have much more potential than our govern-

ment is acknowledging. She promoted conservation as capable of immediately improving the environment.

Local groups' tables shared resources, and made the room more festive. Seeing old friends happily meeting before the event raised spirits. MVPP is grateful for the support of fifteen co-sponsors for this event.

Helen Caldicott's new book is  
**Nuclear Power is Not the Answer**

Other titles include:  
**The New Nuclear Danger: George W. Bush's Military-Industrial Complex** 2001, 2004

**Metal of Dishonor: How Depleted Uranium Penetrates Steel, Radiates People and Contaminates the Environment** 1997

**A Desperate Passion: An Autobiography** 1996

**Nuclear Madness: What You Can Do** 1979, 1994

**If You Love This Planet: A Plan to Heal the Earth** 1992  
- Brian Quirk

## **Protest at Textron Systems Corporation**

About 70 activists, including many from MVPP, protested in front of Textron Systems Corporation in Wilmington, MA on Thursday, October 5th, to demonstrate against the company's manufacture of cluster bombs. Textron is the 30th largest arms producer in the world, with 37,000 employees in 33 countries, and revenues of \$10 billion....our tax money at work. Textron Systems manufactures precision strike weapons, submunitions, ground munitions, and ground and airborne surveillance systems.

Cluster bombs came to public attention in August, following a report by the UN's Mine Action Coordination Center that civilians in southern Lebanon were being wounded and killed each day by unexploded cluster "bomblets." The bombs had been fired in great numbers by Israel during its pullout from Lebanon. UN officials estimate that there are a million unexploded cluster bomblets scattered in civilian areas across southern Lebanon.

Textron was quick to point out that it does not produce the cluster bombs that killed many civilians and left the countryside riddled with unexploded bomblets. Rather, it claimed it produces the Sensor-Fused Weapon (SFW), which supposedly is civilian-friendly because it has a sensor which detects moving targets such as vehicles, leaving "a clean battlefield" and if no targets are detected, the weapon self-destructs. The U.S. Air Force first used these "smart" cluster bombs in Iraq in 2003 at the beginning of our invasion.

There were 13 uniformed policemen, plus Textron security, waiting for us as we arrived at the plant for the demonstration, although Textron did allow us to protest on their property without interference.

Frances Crowe, an 87-year-old veteran Northampton activist, led the protest group. A large contingent from western MA accompanied her including the Raging Grannies, Code Pink, Progressive Democrats of America/ Massachusetts, and Tra-prock Peace Center. Frances is co-founder of the Northampton Committee to Stop the War in Iraq. She has been arrested

numerous times, including once when the now Textron was AVCO, which made systems for cruise missiles.

Among the other protesters were members of the Peace Abbey, Mass Peace Action, United for Justice with Peace, North Shore Coalition for Peace and Justice, Veterans for Peace, and Cambridge AFSC.  
- Bobbie Goldman, Barbara Haack and AnnaMarie Russo, member of Northampton Committee to Stop the War in Iraq

## **Jerusalem Women Speak**

North Shore residents had an opportunity to hear first hand what it is like to live in Palestine and Israel during these very troubled times. On October 29th, three women from the Middle East, billed as "Jerusalem Women Speak", spoke at the Beverly Unitarian Church, and about 400 people attended. The program was sponsored by Partners for Peace, a national organization working towards educating the American public about our country's involvement in the perpetuation of violence between Israel and Palestine (and Lebanon, etc.). Each woman spoke for about fifteen minutes.

First was Shireen, a Christian Palestinian, whose family was devastated by the loss of several family members. She spoke of how frightened her children are and how they cannot attend school. Next, Ghada, a Muslim Palestinian, told the group about being in the third generation of woman in her family to be born in a refugee camp. She has three children. Ghada, very despairingly, spoke of not wanting her children to grow up like she did. "We want what you want: A safe home, enough to eat, a good education for our children—are we not human beings too?" she cried passionately.

The third woman, Reli, is a Jewish Israeli. She is one of a large number of Israelis who oppose her government's foreign policy of violence. Reli stated that most Americans don't know that there are many Israeli groups that also want to stop the violence and live in peace with their neighbors. She reported that both Palestinian and Israeli protestors are being arrested in Israel now.

The three women want the killing and violence to stop, each one believing that Israel cannot continue this fighting without the large amount of American aide in the form of money, weapons and support of the Israeli policy. They begged us, as American citizens, to put pressure on our government to stop its support of Israel's brutal policies.

During the question and answer period there were some loud and dissident questioners, but it seemed, all in all, that the audience was very moved by and sympathetic with these brave Israeli-Palestinian women.

MVPP had endorsed this event.

- Niki Rosen

## **Other events summarized.**

**Candlelight Vigils in Newburyport & Andover** September 21  
MVPP organized candlelight vigils in Newburyport and Andover in conjunction with The Declaration of Peace initiative to end the war in Iraq.

**Rally on Boston Common**, October 1 United for Justice and Peace (UJP) Several MVPP members attended the UJP rally in

support of The Declaration of Peace initiative to end the war in Iraq. Singer and activist Holly Near joined speakers Elena Letona (Director of Centro Presente) and Andy Sapp (Iraq Veterans Against the War). MVPP's Pat Scanlon also sang his new song "Where is the Rage" at the rally.

**Pat Scanlon at "Arlington East"** October 13 & 14. MVPP Member Pat Scanlon singer and songwriter, appeared at the Nauset Regional High School, on Cape Cod, to memorialize those who have died in Iraq. Pat performed his two latest anti-war songs "I've Got a Feeling I've Been Here Before" and "Where is the Rage" at this event sponsored by Cape Codder's for Peace and Justice and Veterans for Peace - Cape Cod Chapter 41.

## Resist Nuclear Resurgence

*Hattie Nestel, MVPP's Western Mass activist just had this published by the Quabbin ValleyVoices, after a five mile walk through Brattleboro, Vermont to Entergy headquarters in North Brattleboro. The famous Bread and Puppet Theatre from Glover, Vermont brought their skeleton and death masks personifying Vermont Yankee. They brought flower tunics for walkers to wear as their band accompanied the walkers, led by the Buddhist Monks from the Leverett peace pagoda. There were more than 200 walkers at Entergy's headquarters. 28 walkers were arrested, calling for Entergy's license to be revoked.*

October 2006

I was born January 25, 1939, the exact day that physicist Dr. John R. Dunning first split the atom at Columbia University and knew that it was possible to release atomic energy. A child in a Jewish family, I spent my first six years in the backdrop of World War 2. I remember sirens and black shades drawn to practice air raid drills in case of an attack. Going to the movies with my parents, I hid my eyes during the war newsreels. I was afraid of Hitler and anti-Semitic experiences I encountered in my neighborhood. My parents clandestinely gave money to the Jewish resistance to try and save Jews from the Holocaust. Throughout my adult life I avidly read everything about the Holocaust I could find. I continually asked myself, "How could this have happened?"

Since the Bush initiative has been to promote nuclear power throughout the United States and the world, I launched into a major study of nuclear power. As I studied the history of nuclear power, I realized I felt the same kind of horror and disbelief I feel when reading about the Holocaust. The Holocaust killed millions as they breathed gas in closed ovens; nuclear power, with its daily radioactive emissions, silently kills millions innocently breathing radioactive air. Chromosomal abnormalities caused by radioactive emissions can lead to the destruction of all life. The biological effects of ionizing radiation, basic to nuclear power, are critical, alarming and essential to understanding the dangers posed by nuclear power, according to Dr. Rosalie Bertell's, 1985, **No Immediate Danger: Prognosis for a Radioactive Earth**. She states, "The fact is there is no safe level of exposure to ionizing radiation."

President Eisenhower in 1953 sold the public on nuclear power as the "peaceful atom" and "too cheap to meter" myths. Economic overruns eroded corporate profits, accidents became ever more alarming to the general public, and the nuclear industry

ground to a halt in the late 1970's. No nuclear power plants have been commissioned since 1978.

However, the Bush administration has created a new nuclear initiative. In order to turn around negative public sentiment surrounding nuclear power, the administration needed to find a new selling point. Global warming is a natural. "By using global warming, the nuclear industry is trying to find some fear greater than the nuclear fear to be their selling point," stated James Riccio, the nuclear policy analyst at Greenpeace.

From the beginning of the nuclear age, nuclear weapons and nuclear power were interdependent and undeniably linked. They begin with uranium and end with dangerous radioactive isotopes. Many of these materials, such as tritium and plutonium, are critical to bomb making.

The United States is heavily investing in maintaining and upgrading its nuclear weapons. The 2001 Nuclear Posture Review states that the U.S. intends to expand its reliance on nuclear weapons. The 2006 National Security Strategy declares that nuclear forces continue to play a critical role. Budget requests by the Bush Administration show vast increases for new nuclear weapons, in addition to the 12,000 already in the U.S. arsenal. To make nuclear weapons and maintain its nuclear superiority, the government needs nuclear power.

The new Bush incentives are aimed at creating hundreds of new nuclear power plants worldwide. Calling this the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership, GNEP. "The GNEP gives countries, under the guise of civilian nuclear programs, the ability to make one of the key ingredients for a nuclear bomb-plutonium," stated Joseph Cirincione, senior vice president for national security and international policy at the Center for American progress. This is what just occurred with India. This seriously undermines the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty creating a double standard resented throughout the world.

Al Gore recently said about nuclear power, "There are serious problems that have to be solved... For eight years in the White House, every weapons proliferation problem we dealt with was connected to a civilian reactor program..." The resentment felt throughout the world toward the United States declaring itself to be the sole arbiter of who can and who cannot develop nuclear power is surely going to backfire.

While the Bush agenda focuses on promoting nuclear power, there is simply no answer as to what to do with the waste. The expenditures on developing Yucca Mountain are over nine billion dollars. The latest official estimate for the total life-cycle cost of the repository is \$57.5 billion. In 2003, the International Atomic energy Agency (IAEA) recommended that any repository should have "millions of years of geological stability." Yucca Mountain is located in a tectonically and seismically active area with respect to vulcanism. Yucca Mountain fails many other basic requirements necessary to safeguard these radioactive wastes. It is highly doubtful that the high level of risks associated with this site will ever allow it to be regarded as an appropriate site for a repository. And who will be around during the next 12,000 human generations to monitor this radioactive waste and keep it secure?

Two final self-evident issues that should certainly end the nuclear power option are that no evacuation plan is workable and only enormous taxpayer subsidies can promote or keep the

nuclear industry afloat. Is nuclear power worth the risk when many safe alternatives are already available?

Massachusetts State Representatives Chris Donelan, Stephen Kulick, and Denis Guyer have all issued strong statements regarding the unacceptable risks posed by Vermont Yankee. Congressman John Olver issued a statement October 13, 2006 stating "I believe reinvigorating the nuclear industry without solving safety issues and the nuclear waste storage problem risks creating a new environmental calamity. We should not rely on nuclear power before we discover how to safely store nuclear waste for the long term and protect Americans from side effects. Radiation poisoning and the threat of cancer are health problems that have clearly been linked to nuclear waste." (For full statements go to [www.nukebusters.org](http://www.nukebusters.org))

Albert Einstein stated in 1947, "Through the release of atomic energy, our generation has brought into the world the most revolutionary force since the prehistoric discovery of fire. There is no secret and there is no defense; there is no possibility of control except through the aroused understanding and insistence of the peoples of the world. We scientists recognize our inescapable responsibility to carry to our fellow citizens an understanding of the simple facts of atomic energy and its implications for society. In this lies our only security and our only hope—we believe that an informed citizenry will act for life and not death".

When the public understands the health hazards of daily radiation emissions, risk of cataclysmic accidents, connection to nuclear weapons proliferation and impossibility of safeguarding the radioactive waste for the next several hundred thousand years, public pressure will demand that nuclear power be abolished. With the abolition of nuclear power, funds for safe, sustainable and affordable energy will be available. Humanity's future depends on it.

Much of my material was taken from a resource rich in up-to-date materials and is highly recommended.

**Insurmountable Risks: The Dangers of Using Nuclear Power to Combat Global Climate Change**, May 2006, by the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research (IEER) is remarkable in both scope and depth. It takes us through the falsification of information, irresponsible and dangerous mismanagement of power plants and the 54,000 metric tons of radioactive waste it has created with no safe storage. It exposes the new nuclear policies promoted behind the scenes and the significant impacts these policies have for future generations. It is a must read!

Hattie Nestel [Hattieshalom@verizon.net](mailto:Hattieshalom@verizon.net)  
488 S. Main St., Athol, Ma. 01331  
978-249-6224

## Letters by MVPP Members

(and a friend)

### The consequences of the Military Commissions Act

Daily News of Newburyport, October 31, 2006

To the editor:

It can't happen here. At least, we thought it could not happen here. And yet, the Military Commissions Act of 2006 has been

signed into law. The feeble resistance against it failed to stop an often discredited administration and Congress from making it law. The president can now apply the label "illegal enemy combatant" to anyone he wants; he can decide to authorize whatever secret, brutal interrogation methods, including rape, he wants; he can deny detainees a chance to prove their innocence and can lock up anyone forever without recourse; and he can use coerced evidence and deny the accused access to evidence. Perhaps to reassure me, an acquaintance made the comment that this would not apply to American citizens. Even if this were true, it would give me no comfort. We're talking about human beings, no matter where they happened to be born, and America's standards and system of justice have been grievously undermined. And perhaps it isn't true that the provisions of the act cannot touch American citizens. William Rivers Pitt wrote:

"Underneath all this is the definition of 'enemy combatant' that has been established by this legislation. An 'enemy combatant' is now no longer just someone captured 'during an armed conflict' against our forces. Thanks to this legislation, George W. Bush is now able to designate as an 'enemy combatant' anyone who has 'purposefully and materially supported hostilities against the United States.

"Consider that language a moment. 'Purposefully and materially supported hostilities against the United States' is in the eye of the beholder, and this administration has proved itself to be astonishingly impatient with criticism of any kind. The broad powers given to Bush by this legislation allow him to capture, indefinitely detain and refuse a hearing to any American citizen who speaks out against Iraq or any other part of the so-called 'War on Terror.' "

In other words, if I write a letter to the local newspaper disagreeing with Bush/Cheney policy, or join a peace vigil calling for an end to the Iraq occupation, I could be labeled an "enemy combatant" ... In The New York Times (Oct. 31), Erich Lichtblau wrote about the Defense Department gathering information on demonstrations nationwide by students and church groups and others opposed to the war. These very open, public, nonviolent expressions were sometimes labeled "potential terrorist activity" by the D.O.D. Even after it is determined that no threat was involved, records on protests are kept in an internal database.

Enactment of the Military Commissions Act brings us closer to the brink of absolute depravity. Arbitrary laws and arbitrary execution of those laws invites dictatorship and its crimes. The Bush/Cheney administration has chosen to destroy hundreds of thousands of human beings to further its agenda. By vilifying this or that leader, often previous allies, the case is built for murderous incursions. There is no other way to put it and seemingly no way to put an end to it. Diplomacy, negotiation and resolution of conflicts are rejected in favor of brute force, resulting in the inevitable counter force. And here at home the clock is ticking. How many civil and human rights will be sacrificed before this era runs its course?

In a world where governments often deny the value of human life and choose to decimate entire populations in order to satisfy the greed of the powerful, our only hope resides in holding firm to humane and just principles and laws. The chaos that ensues when these are abandoned is terrifying to contemplate.

Diana Philip,  
Newburyport

To continue to receive 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 is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions to MVPP are tax P.O. Box 573 deductible. Last year, approximately one-third of our members joined/renewed at higher than the basic rate. **Check here [ ] if you prefer to receive your newsletter via e-mail.**

### Listen to speakers before condemning them

Lawrence Eagle Tribune 11/03/2006  
The Eagle-Tribune reported (Oct. 31) the cancellation of the scheduled speaking engagement at Andover High of the Wheels of Justice Bus Tour members. The head of the teachers union threatens a First Amendment lawsuit against the School Department.

The story says the speakers are pro-Palestinians. If you knew them, you would know that they are pro non-violence, and pro peace and justice for all. The article did not mention the speakers by name nor give any indication of what these people have done to promote peace and justice or to deserve cancellation.

I wish that these men could come to this area and speak without having labels put upon them before they open their mouths. The late playwright Arthur Miller might have something to say if he were with us. This was the area of witch hunts long ago and it appears that witch hunts are with us today.

Let the readers read for themselves:  
Dr. Hassan Fouda is an independent science consultant and former Assistant Director at Global Research and Development, Pfizer, Inc. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of Tandem Lab, a Contract Research Organization based in Salt Lake City, Utah. Currently, Hassan serves on the Board of Directors of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolition. He was a member of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Right to Return Coalition and served as the Connecticut chair. He is also active in several educational and interfaith peace advocacy groups.

In January 2006, Dr. Fouda was a member of a delegation from the Council for the National Interest that participated as international observers to the recent Palestinian elections.

Joe Carr is an anti-oppression activist and performance artist from Kansas City, Missouri. He graduated with a BA from the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Wash., in 2004, having organized with direct-action movements such as Earth First, Food Not Bombs, and Arts in Activism.

In the last three years, he's worked with the International Solidarity Movement in Palestine where he witnessed Israeli soldiers murder international activists Rachel Corrie and Tom Hurdall, and with the Christian Peacemaker Teams in Palestine and Iraq. He is friends with those held hostage. This is his third national speaking tour, he's appeared in several documentaries, has had his writing published in major media outlets, and just released his second album of music and poetry.

Jane Cadarette, North Andover

*Two days later the Eagle Tribune ran an editorial saying that Wheels of Justice wanted to indoctrinate a captive audience in school, and that no first amendment rights were violated. They did publish The Wheels of Justice Tour Platform:*

**We call** for adherence to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

**We oppose** all violence against any civilians; every human being has a right to live.

**Through education**, outreach, nonviolent actions and personal witness, we stand in opposition to the violence and injustice of war, terror and occupation.

**We recognize** that to find peace, the root injustices must be sought, seen and directly dealt with.

**We seek** and practice nonviolent alternatives to the current violence and advocate

### Vermont Yankee

Editor, Brattleboro Reformer

Your newspaper's coverage of the past Monday's lively demonstration against the Vernon nuclear plant was deplorable. It was skewed and sensationalized and made a mockery of a genuine outpouring of citizen opposition to Entergy's Vermont Yankee plant.

Your rival newspaper, the Rutland Herald, had a comprehensive and vivid article. What is your excuse for inflammatory, biased, yellow journalism? The main points you missed are:

- more than 200 demonstrators with a preponderance of Vermonters took time on a WEEK day to parade through Brattleboro to make a statement against Vermont Yankee
- the demonstrators emphasized conservation, safety, and alternatives
- the orderly demonstrators provided a colorful festival of animation and ideas designed to point out the hazards of Vermont Yankee
- of the more than 25 people arrested Monday during civil disobedience connected with the demonstration, most were Vermonters
- this was the largest demonstration to date in the continuing campaign to shut down Vermont Yankee

Shame on you. You owe your readers honest reporting. Why didn't you provide it?

Sincerely, Marcia Gagliardi, a downwinder who lives within fourteen dangerous miles of the Vernon reactor

Marcia Gagliardi  
Haley's, a mile west of Athol center on Route 2A  
488 South Main Street 800.215.8805  
P O Box 248  
Athol, MA 01331

*Editors Note: Hattie just told me this letter inspired that paper to send another reporter, who wrote a better article.*

## Coming Events

### Merrimack Valley

Events from UJP and NH Peace Action follow.

**Stone Soup Supper** November 21, 6:30 at the First United Methodist Church, North Andover. Near corner of 114 and 133 (near Eagle Tribune).

**Social Justice in the Church, Catholic Teaching and War and Peace**, November 29, 7:30 pm. Fr. J. Bryan Hehir of the Archdiocese of Boston, president of Catholic Charities, USA. OLG Parish St. Theresa Church, 22 Plymouth Street Methuen, MA

### **We won't have a monthly meeting in December.**

But our November meeting will be November 28, at the First United Methodist Church, North Andover.

**MVPP Potluck is Friday evening, Jan 5th at 6:30** at the First United Methodist Church, North Andover, with folks from the mosque again invited to join us for an opportunity to talk together. Near corner of 114 and 133 (near Eagle Tribune).

### UJP

[www.justicewithpeace.org/](http://www.justicewithpeace.org/)

**Opportunities and Challenges Facing Activist Feminist Women in Israel** Nov 29, 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Paula Mills, a longtime feminist activist with Isha L'Isha (the Feminist Center in Haifa), will explore the strategies used by activist women to create an environment for the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325. This resolution was passed on October 2000, specifically addressing the impact of war on women and women's contribution to conflict resolution and sustainable peace. Feminist activists have always faced complex challenges when working to promote changes in government and its policies. Awareness work on 1325 has also had an impact upon the delicate fabric of cooperation between feminist activists, privileged Jewish women, marginalized Palestinian women and citizens of Israel. Please join this important and timely discussion; light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by Nov. 22nd to [erin.Hart@tufts.edu](mailto:erin.Hart@tufts.edu) Please pass on to other students and graduate students. Send email to [erin.hart@tufts.edu](mailto:erin.hart@tufts.edu) for additional information. Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts U., Goddard Hall, Crowe Rm.

**Be the Media: A Mini-Conference Promoting Democracy, Access and Social Change** Nov 30, 11:30 AM This conference aims to help participants understand the link between strategic communication and organizing strategies, and to learn essential communications tools and techniques. It will also help to build awareness about the Boston media landscape and ways to improve access for the community and social justice groups in the future. Conference program includes workshops, discussions, and presentations on: the use of the new media, enhancing your communications capabilities; understanding media reform proposals and their challenge, media democracy; how best to frame your stories in the media to highlight your issues. RSVP by Weds. 11/22/06 by visiting [www.bethemediaevent.org](http://www.bethemediaevent.org) Other Contact Information: 617/896-9309. 3rd Sector New England's NonProfit Center, 89 South St., Lincoln Plaza.

**CUBA TODAY: TRANSITIONS, INNOVATIONS & TRANSFORMATIONS** Dec 1, 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM - Symposium with Panels and Lectures - Free and Open to Public TUFTS GRADUATE SCHOOL OF A&S, DEAN OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FOR A&S, THE BOLWELL-TOUPIN FUND THE FLETCHER SCHOOL, TUFTS LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES & TUFTS LATINO CENTER present a series of lectures and panel discussions on Cuba today. Graduate student panels and a lecture by Dr. Rafael Hernandez, University of Havana and current Robert F. Kennedy Visiting Professor of Latin American Studies at Harvard University. See below for full schedule. For more information, visit [www.fletcher.tufts.edu](http://www.fletcher.tufts.edu). Send email to [fletcherweb@tufts.edu](mailto:fletcherweb@tufts.edu) for additional information. Other Contact Information: 617-627-3363. Tufts University Fletcher School Cabot Bldg., 7th Floor, Medford

**CITY LIFE/VITA URBANA ANNUAL MEETING-NEXT DAY** Dec 1, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM : 12/2 RDAICAL ORGAINZ-ING CONFERENCE For the annual meeting: 6 to 7 PM: Camaraderie and Light Meal; 7:00 - 7:30 PM CLVU Updates and Board Elections; 7:30 - Talk by Noam Chomsky followed by question and answer session. The next day: The Radical Organizing Conference also at English High School. Other Contact Information: 617/524-3541x311. English High School, Jamaica Plain, Ma.

**First Amendment Award** Dec 1, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM 2006 Louis P. and Evelyn Smith First Amendment Award From Watergate to the confirmation hearings of Samuel Alito, from the Reagan Revolution to war in Iraq - the highly praised and award-winning coverage of Cokie Roberts, Nina Totenberg and Linda Wertheimer has shed light on the people, institutions, and social forces shaping our nation. In print, on television, and, most notably, over National Public Radio, their groundbreaking journalism has not only changed the way millions of Americans view their country and their world, but also had a profound impact on the profession of broadcasting. They will be receiving the Louis P. and Evelyn Smith First Amendment Award and sharing their thoughts on their life and their work. Send email to [info@fordhallforum.org](mailto:info@fordhallforum.org) for additional information. Other Contact Information: 617/373-5800, Alex Minier. Old South Meeting House, downtown Boston.

**Iraqi Labor Leaders Tour : A Season For Solidarity** Dec 4, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM This is a tour by leaders of three of the most important labor organizations in Iraq and will provide an opportunity for people to hear directly from Iraqi trade unionists and learn about the fight for workers' rights in Iraq. These courageous leaders struggled for years against Saddam Hussein's repression and now have stepped forward to organize workers seeking to improve conditions at their workplaces, support their

families and rebuild their country under the difficult conditions of occupation, sectarian division and violence. They are fighting not only for basic labor rights for all workers, but also against privatization of their natural resources. The 3 who are coming: Faleh Abood Umara, General Secretary of the Southern Oil Company Union; Hashima Mohsen al Hussein, President of the Electrical Utility Workers Union; Samir Adil, President of the Iraq Freedom Congress, Send email to [tess.ewing@umb.edu](mailto:tess.ewing@umb.edu) for additional information. U Mass Boston.

**Human Rights: A Tool For Change in Massachusetts** Dec 10 - Dec 17, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Human Rights: A Tool For Change in Massachusetts This conference is an opportunity to deepen your understanding of international rights and the role you play in their enforcement on this 58th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recent reports published by Amnesty International, Human Rights Walk, the AFSC, the ACLU and others have demonstrated that the human rights of all Americans are in jeopardy. Panelists on this conference will discuss the human rights of people in prisons through the lens of the UN Human Rights Treaties. The Keynote speaker for our time together are: Blanche Wiesen Cook, author of biographies of Eleanor and other books regarding the UN. Panelists will discuss Strategies for Implementing Human Rights with workshops and report backs to follow. Send email to [ncwrenn@aol.com](mailto:ncwrenn@aol.com) for additional information. Other Contact Information: 617/304-6555. Boston Public Library, Copley Square, Boston.

**Welcome Home Noam Chomsky** Dec 14 What's Next? Back from his tour of Latin America, This will be a benefit for Noam Chomsky with several other public intellectuals and activists. Noam will help answer the question: "What's Next? Creating Another World in a Time of War, Empire and Ecological Devastation?" He will be joined by an organizer of the upcoming U.S. Social Forum. Additional speakers have been invited. On line ticket purchasing is available; the regular ticket price is \$20.00, low income at \$10.00 All proceeds will benefit the new Boston movement-building space and organizing center, encuentro 5. A wine and cheese reception and art exhibition is being organized for a limited number of guests at encuentro 5 in Chinatown (33 Harrison St.). Admission is \$50.00; it is free for volunteers, who would be most welcome. Send email to [suren@fairjobs.org](mailto:suren@fairjobs.org) for additional information. Other Contact Information: 617/482-6300. Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury St. Boston.

**NH Peace Action**  
[www.nhpeaceaction.org/](http://www.nhpeaceaction.org/)

**The Next Step for Solari Circles** Wednesday, Nov. 29, at 7 pm: The Next Step for Solari Circles with Catherine Fitts. Part of Create a Peaceful World by Sustaining our Future at Dover Friends Meeting, 141 Central Ave., Dover. Sponsored by The Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Dover Friends Meeting, Seacoast Peace Response, Seacoast Alliance for Democracy, Clean Water Action, NH Faithful Democracy. Free and open to the public. Resources: The End of Fossil Fuel, 3rd edition by John Howe, Plan 2B by Lester Brown, and Whole Earth Catalog. For more information contact Phyllis Abell at [pkillamabell@comcast.net](mailto:pkillamabell@comcast.net) 580-1934.

**Emergency Solidarity Delegation to Colombia** Friday, Dec. 1, to Wednesday, Dec. 13: led by Sean Donahue and Daphne Loring. For more information go to <http://www.colombiajournal.org/events.htm> or contact Sean at [wrlidhealer@yahoo.com](mailto:wrlidhealer@yahoo.com) or phone 207-947-5631.

**Rivers and Tides.** Wednesday, Dec. 6, at 7 pm: An award winning documentary and beautiful film about our earth by landscape artist ndy Goldsworthy. Potluck at 6:00 pm. Part of Create a Peaceful World by Sustaining our Future at Dover Friends Meeting, 141 Central Ave., Dover. Sponsored by The Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Dover Friends Meeting, Seacoast Peace Response, Seacoast Alliance for Democracy, Clean Water Action, NH Faithful Democracy. Free and open to the public. Resources: The End of Fossil Fuel, 3rd edition by John Howe, Plan 2B by Lester Brown, and Whole Earth Catalog. For more information contact Phyllis Abell at [pkillamabell@comcast.net](mailto:pkillamabell@comcast.net) 580-1934.

**TRUTH TEA PARTY** Saturday, Dec. 16, from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm: BOSTON/NEW ENGLAND ACTIVISTS TO STAGE 9/11 TRUTH TEA PARTY in Boston. Sponsored by The Boston 911 Truth Committee. For more information phone 617-401-8047, [www.boston911truth.org/teaparty/](http://www.boston911truth.org/teaparty/)

**Teaching Peace Conference in Durham** Saturday, April 14, 2007: Teaching Peace Conference in Durham. For more information check out the Teaching Peace Conference website at

[www.teachingpeaceconference.org](http://www.teachingpeaceconference.org) or contact Melinda Salazar [msalazar@cisunix.unh.edu](mailto:msalazar@cisunix.unh.edu).

More from Hattie...

"If free and independent journalism committed to telling the truth without fear or favor is suffocated, the oxygen goes out of democracy."

- Bill Moyers



# Recommended Book

Right before his knee surgery Peter Cameron recommended we read:

## **The End of Iraq: How American Incompetence Created A War Without End**, by Peter W. Galbraith

“Detailed historical account of Iraq since 1921, American Involvement, and how to extract from the mess.” --Peter

“A year after his “Axis of Evil” speech before the U.S. Congress, President Bush met with three Iraqi Americans, one of whom became postwar Iraq’s first representative to the United States. The three described what they thought would be the political situation after the fall of Saddam Hussein. During their conversation with the President, Galbraith claims, it became apparent to them that Bush was unfamiliar with the distinction between Sunnis and Shiites.

...  
“A seasoned diplomat, Galbraith served as the first U.S. ambassador to Croatia, where he negotiated the 1995 Erdut Agreement that ended the Croatian war.”--Christian Avard of [www.rawstory.com/news/2006/Ambassador\\_claims\\_shortly\\_before\\_invasion\\_Bush\\_0804.html](http://www.rawstory.com/news/2006/Ambassador_claims_shortly_before_invasion_Bush_0804.html)



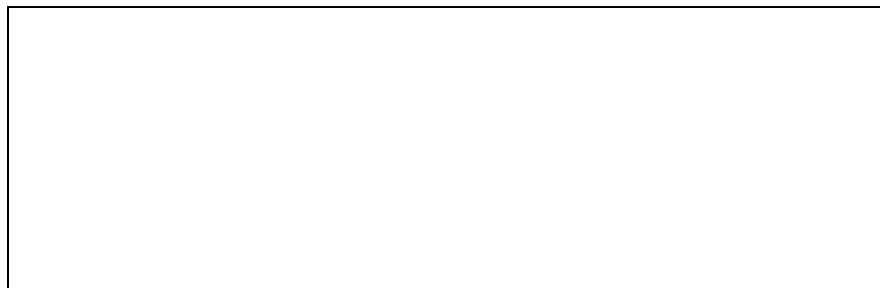
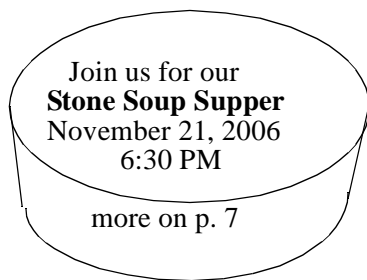
MVPP at the Lowell Folk Festival July, 2006



MVPP on an October weekday at Textron see p.3

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The MVPP Newsletter is printed monthly and has a current distribution of 200. We are grateful for suggestions, comments, and help with publication. (Unless 2006 appears on your label, your dues have expired. Please remember to renew.)  
MVPP President: Bobbie Goldman. Vice President: Becci Backman. Newsletter contributors: Arthur and Margaret Brien, Jane Cadarette, Peter Cameron, Marcia Gagliardi, Bobbie Goldman, Barbara Haack, Sue Imhoff, Hattie Nestel, Diana Philip, Brian Quirk, Niki Rosen, and Boryana Tacconi.

## **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)

### **Senator Edward M. Kennedy**

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

### **Senator John F. Kerry**

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

### **Representative Martin Meehan (District 5)**

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

### **Representative John Tierney (District 6)**

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

### **A link to all in US legislature:**

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

### **How Senators and Representatives voted:**

Senate: [http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/a\\_three\\_sections\\_with\\_teasers/votes.htm](http://www.senate.gov/pagelayout/legislative/a_three_sections_with_teasers/votes.htm)  
House: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2004/index.asp>

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