



A newsletter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation FOR

FROM THE NATIONAL COUNCIL CHAIR, PAUL R. DEKAR

Building King's "World House"

I am struck by a question as germane today as it was two thousand years ago. Asked, "Who is my neighbor?" Jesus re-focused the query and told the story of a man mugged and left for dead on the road between Jericho and Jerusalem. A priest and a Levite passed by the man on their way to religious services. Jesus pointed to the actions of a good Samaritan, a foreigner not expected to show sympathy to Jews.

How does a good neighbor think and behave? Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., reflected on this question on April 3, 1968. Dr. King was in Memphis, Tennessee, to support garbage collectors as they challenged the socio-economic

foundations of white, male supremacy. Dr. King stressed the importance of their struggle: "Whenever men and women straighten their backs up, they are going somewhere, because a man can't ride your back unless it is bent."

To draw attention to the need for "a kind of dangerous unselfishness," Dr. King turned to the story of the Good Samaritan and asked people to imagine why the two religious leaders failed to stop. He considered thoughts that might have stirred in the minds of the priest and Levite when they saw the man at the side of the road. Perhaps they were late for a church meeting. Perhaps they were on the way to organize a "Jericho Road Improvement Association" and felt it was better to deal with the problem from the causal root, rather than to get bogged down with an individual effort.



Perhaps they felt that the man on the ground was merely faking.

Whatever the reason, the first question that went through their mind was this: "If I stop to help this man in need, what will happen to me?" King re-framed the problem and asked, "If I do not stop to help the sanitation workers, what will happen to them?" Dr. King urged his audience to rise up with a greater determination to the challenge of building a culture of peace.

At the time, the slogan was not in use. Dr. King spoke rather of building a "beloved community" or "world house." Developing the latter phrase in his 1964 Nobel Peace Prize lecture, Dr. King told of a widely separated family that inherits a house in which they have to live together. For Dr. King, this was a great new problem: "We have inherited a large

house, a great world house in which we have to live together—black and white, Easterner and Westerner, Gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, Muslim and Hindu—a family unduly separated in ideas, culture and interest, who, because we can never again live apart, must learn somehow to live with each other in peace." Dr. King called for "true compassion," "a revolution of values," "nonviolent coexistence" not violent co-annihilation, and interrelatedness as a moral imperative in every arena. "Whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly."

Dr. King's ideas reverberated throughout the nation. However, many who supported African Americans as they marched on Washington in 1963 to demand civil rights turned, in 1968, against the freedom movement when it demanded economic and social rights, not just for African

Americans but also for poor whites, Hispanics, Vietnamese, and others. As Dr. King prepared to lead a second march on Washington to demand an end to poverty, elimination of every vestige of racism, withdrawal from Vietnam, and control over science and technology, powerful forces resolved he had to die.

As much as any single twentieth-century figure can, Dr. King informs the ongoing work of FOR and inspires us to engage in his unfinished work. We must not simply elevate Dr. King to iconic status. Several decades after his death, Dr. King's vision of a world house still has programmatic relevance for a human community not yet free of the triple axis of evil: racism, poverty, and war. His ideas still matter. His words still matter. It matters that FOR members build a world house, a beloved community, a culture of peace.

International Activists Highlight FOR's 4th Festival of Peace

by Ethan Vesely-Flad

"All three countries represented by today's prize winners – Colombia, Mexico, and the United States – are countries at war." This sober assessment was offered by Pietro Ameglio – a member of SERPAJ-Morelos, a Mexican organization that was one of three recipients of FOR's

2008 Pfeffer International Peace Prize – as he stood on stage at the Fellowship of Reconciliation's fourth annual Festival of Peace on Sunday, September 14th.

Ameglio had traveled 2,500 miles to Nyack, New York to receive the Pfeffer award on behalf of the Morelos collective, considered the most active group of the "SERPAJ" (Servicio Paz y Justicia) network of nonviolence activism, which operates in several countries. The other two Pfeffer recipients also traveled from a great distance: Ricardo Esquivia, a Mennonite who brings together churches in one of Colombia's most conflictive areas, and Guillermo Mateus-Corredor, a human rights investigator in the Colombian Inspector General's Office. Together with some 400 U.S. guests – including George Lakey, the recipient of the 2008 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize – these distinguished guests came to walk the grounds of FOR's "Shadowcliff" headquarters in Nyack, New York, on a 90-degree, humid afternoon.

The final speaker in the day's program was Mateus-Corredor, who stunned the crowd by breaking down in tears after being introduced by John Lindsay-Poland, co-director of FOR's Latin America and the Caribbean program. Mateus-Corredor has earned respect from communities that have suffered human rights violations for his commitment to listen to and respect the testimonies of everyday Colombians, not just those of government and army officials – and for investigating in a manner that does not endanger local citizens.

Mateus-Corredor's own wife and family have, in fact, been forced to live in exile in the United States due to the risks of his work, and they joined him at the

festival. As he began his speech, he pointed to his daughter, and began to cry. Regaining his composure, with Lindsay-Poland as translator, Mateus-Corredor described his investigation of one of the most disturbing crimes in recent Colombian history – a period when there have been more than a thousand reported extrajudicial killings.

In February 2005, a massacre of eight members of the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, where FOR has maintained a human rights accompaniment team since 2002, took place in the country's rural northwestern region. Community members implicated members of an army brigade operating in the region of the massacre, in which three children were slain and decapitated and the adults were brutally murdered. Despite the horrific nature of the crime, Colombia's history of routinely covering-up such incidents indicated that the accused perpetrators would never be brought to justice. Yet in recent months, largely as a result of Mateus-Corredor's investigative efforts, several army officials have been charged for roles in the massacre. Eleven members of the Colombian military had been arrested by mid-September. "It is very difficult, but I know that Colombia needs people like me," said Mateus-Corredor.

"It was profoundly moving," said Mark Johnson, executive director of FOR, reflecting on the emotional moment. "Here is a man whose career is spent investigating heinous crimes, and yet as a result of this simple tribute, he was moved to tears. It shows that we can never fully appreciate the impact these awards will have on those who receive them."

Other prize recipients also



2008 Festival of Peace Int'l Peace Prize Winners from left to right: Pietro Ameglio representing SERPAJ-Morelos, Ricardo Esquivia, and Guillermo Mateus-Corredor.



Some members of the Rockland Coalition for Peace and Justice, 2008 Nyack Peace Prize winners.

expressed gratitude for their honors. After returning to his home in Bogotá, Ricardo Esquivia sent FOR this message:

"I want to deeply thank you for the distinction granted with this prize. There were significant moments of solidarity and brotherhood/sisterhood [at the Festival of Peace] in which I could see the face of God in that community. Thanks for the superb attention, continued on page 2



2008 Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize winner, George Lakey.

VOLUME 2008 WINTER EDITION
INSIDE THIS ISSUE
King's "World House"1
Festival of Peace 2008 1
News from Shadowcliff 2
TFLAC Program 3
Iran Program 4
Youth & Militarism Program 5
National Council/Local Chapters 6
In Memoriam 7
Calendar Events 8
FOR SURVEY 8
Annual Report - See pages AR-1 - AR-4

Starting with this issue, Winter 2008, we're instituting a few changes. In the center of this issue, for the first time you will find an abbreviated annual report summarizing FOR's work during the past fiscal year. Our annual report consists of a 4-page insert, numbered AR.1 - AR.4. These pages may be lifted out of the newsletter and filed or kept for future reference.

In past issues, the space in this column was reserved for the words of our current chair of the National Council. Going forward, the NC Chair's article will be the lead article here on page 1. Our Executive Director's column, will move to page 2. Ed. Notes.

FOR Fellowship of Reconciliation
521 N. Broadway P.O. Box 271 Nyack, NY 10960
Telephone: 845-358-4601 Fax: 845-358-4924
Web site: www.forusa.org www.FORpeacenet.net e-mail: for@forusa.org

Fellowship of Reconciliation
PO Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960
www.forusa.org 845.358.4601
www.FORpeace.net



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NEWS FROM SHADOWCLIFF

Faith Enough and Time

by Mark C. Johnson

The Fellowship of Reconciliation has always operated in the space of interfaith witness, solidarity, and active nonviolence, but that space changes shape over time, as



does the language to describe it. At end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries, an ecumenical impetus allowed people to respect the doctrinal differences within Christian faith communities and identify common values and projects where their shared values intersected. By the middle of the 20th and into the 21st centuries, that respect has extended to communities of faith broader than a single religion and into communities whose faith and beliefs would not conventionally be described as religious at all. Where the common thread across such communities includes active nonviolence as a means of achieving the end of a just and peaceful society, organizations like FOR develop membership and program.

FOR is not a church, though many of our members who seek religious communion are engaged with congregations and practices guided by authorities of their faith, would see that as fully consistent and aligned with their relationship to FOR. Some do actually call FOR their “church,” but that is a statement of affinity, not orthodoxy.

FOR's rootedness in the spirit and principles of peace mean that people of no faith can still pursue their beliefs and visions in good faith through membership and practices of this community. Here we find kindred spirits who take confidence in the power of personal conscience and collective commitments to change the world for the better.

Rooting action in moral and ethical frameworks does not require a theology that is coherent, passionate, and directive. And moral and ethical frameworks do shape action even when their basis is humanistic, political, economic, social, or philosophical. Moral and ethical action requires the will and a means to make change. It requires the commitment of time and often courage as well: the time to organize for action and the courage to resist a climate or culture of fear, for example; the time to think deeply and the courage and discipline to act on the insights which come from reflection and dialogue.

The issue of the faith-based diversity of our membership and supporters gains gravity in the modern world when media and experience try to reduce differences to religious values and practices. As 150 of us from U.S. peace movements listened, in

late September, to President Ahmadinejad answer questions about concerns and interests of the U.S. movement relative to Iran, it was clear that he operated from a Messianic perspective. Specifically, that he believed the Messianic framework included a peace-making Messiah, whether that was the yet-to-come Messiah of Judaism or Islam, or the returning Messiah of Christianity.

It seemed to me that, as sincere as President Ahmadinejad was, there was a deep nervousness and even a profound discomfort in his audience. On the one hand, those from faith traditions with a Messianic principle were either not ready to legitimize a political framing for questions of respect, tolerance, and rights, or they were deeply cautious because of recorded abuses of Messianic justifications for political actions based on historical experience. These concerns kept some who were invited to the session from attending.

Those from non-Messianic frameworks of moral and ethical action were even more uncomfortable with a discourse which, first, appealed to principles they did not share, and second, were used by someone who represented a use of such principles contrary to their beliefs and goals.

This may be an extreme context in which to lift up the challenges of faith-based, interfaith, and multicultural peacemaking and practices grounded in grassroots, nonviolent social action. But it is at the heart of the strength, and the challenges, of working in the public space of interfaith witness of nonviolence, where FOR positions itself. For in the end, reconciliation of these differing frameworks will be necessary, and the reconciliation will not be achieved if it is treated as simply accommodating deep differences in a relativist fashion.

The challenge starts at the personal level and the locating of one's commitment to nonviolent social change in a values framework. Do we seek peace in our own hearts? It then rises to the level of community and culture: are we reconciled as nations within our cultural and political boundaries? Do we seek peace in our families? Finally, it expresses itself most demandingly at the global level as we explore reconciliation across history and geography in awe and trembling. Do we pursue peace in the world?

I am finding this an enormously challenging and important part of the work of FOR, “North America's oldest interfaith, multicultural peace organization” promoting nonviolence as a means to resolving conflict and achieving justice and peace worldwide.

The Ladies of Shadowcliff Peace House Hostesses

What would a stately mansion be without a lady of the house? In the case of Shadowcliff, totally forlorn; for the ladies of Shadowcliff are formidable. They are the support and the sustenance for all the peace & justice workers who visit or inhabit the hallowed halls of FOR's national headquarters. Linda Kelly interviews the first lady of Shadowcliff, Ruth Stern, and the current Peace House Hostess, Mary Heckler.

FOR: How did you come to Shadowcliff?

Ruth: In 1956, an FOR woman visited Winterbrook Farm, the pacifist community we belonged to in Canada, and spoke of the move that FOR headquarters planned to make from New York City to a house on the Hudson River. Our community was disbanding and we couldn't find meaningful work in Canada, so my husband, Lee, a member of FOR for many years, wrote to John Swomley. John did not want to run the building and A.J. Muste wanted to stay in New York. So, Lee was an engineer and could do the tremendous repairs needed before the FOR office could relocate in 1957. We moved into the apartment on the third floor then and lived there for eleven years.

Mary: (2008) My mother, who I had been caring for, had gone into a nursing home and I had begun to look for work. Prior to caring for my mom, I had worked for Catholic Charities and developed an interest in non-profits. I'd also worked in restaurants and catering. When I thought about my ideal work, I envisioned a huge place with wonderful old props and a big kitchen in the back for catering to be done on sight where I could stage events at reasonable prices. I saw the posting for the

Peace House Hostess on the internet in Opportunity Knocks, and thought this would combine my interests and my dream.

FOR: What are your favorite memories of your time in Shadowcliff?

Ruth: Our children grew up here. They had the run of the big basement where they loved to play hide and seek. The work was hard. We cared for the whole place all week and then there were weekend conferences. My favorite event was the Christmas party. There was a built-in organ and we sang. Paul Peabody showed his marionettes. It was a wonderful time.

FOR: What have been your favorite events so far?

Mary: The fun events are the weddings. The people are so pleased with the house, the grounds and the view. They're usually so grateful and gracious.

FOR: What events were your greatest teachers?

Ruth: I learned not to answer the phone at night. We got plenty of hateful calls in the early 60's. In those days, people thought that FOR was a communist organization. One night, a man called and threatened to blow the place up because FOR allowed busses to pick up anti-Viet Nam war demonstrators in front of the building on North Broadway. It was frightening. I had a foreign accent and Lee had a beard so people thought we were very strange. I volunteered at the local elementary school just so the people could find out that we did not grow horns at FOR.

Mary: The Peace Festival taught me the most. That was mad, but it worked. I arrived at the beginning



Mary Heckler



Ruth Stern

of June with only three months to pull the festival together for September, and we managed to do just that with only a handful of staff and volunteers.

FOR: What do you enjoy about being the Peace House Hostess the most?

Mary: Probably the variety of things to do, and my relationships with other FOR staff. Hillary (Dr. Hillary Gaston, Director of Operations) shows me the respect to tell me, “Mary, just do what you've got to do” within reason, and our budget. And Tom (Tom Morrison, Local Contact Specialist) acts as my voice of conscience. He tells me, “Now, Mary, there might be somebody who could use those old books,” when I'm just anxious to clear the place out.

FOR: What are your short term and long term goals for Shadowcliff?

Mary: My long term goal is a complete overhaul. I would love to go through the entire house and do a whole make-over. Shadowcliff is FOR's greatest asset. It's a very valuable property and with it maintained, it would be extremely valuable; and it should be used, but not for free. The short term goal is to make improvements piecemeal because that's what we can afford for now.

FOR: What are your hopes?

Ruth: I would love to have more contact with FOR. At age 83 I don't like to drive much anymore. But if anyone is coming to Washington DC and can drive me back to Nyack, I'd love to visit.

4TH FESTIVAL OF PEACE *continued from pg 1*

hospitality, and love. I know that God gave us those moments of brotherhood/sisterhood so we can continue growing and increasing our relationship”.

George Lakey has been renowned throughout the international human rights community for a career of nonviolence activism that has spanned more than five decades and dozens of countries. The King Award from FOR, however, marks one of the first national recognitions of Lakey's numerous achievements. His two adult daughters traveled with Lakey from Philadelphia to join him for the event.

In a lengthy interview with FOR prior to the festival, Lakey had expressed disappointment that current efforts by activists to oppose the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are not strategic, rarely utilize civil disobedience, and don't operate within a framework of time-specific campaigns that can be reviewed and assessed. (The Lakey interview and ones with other honorees are published online at www.FORpeace.net.) At the festival, Lakey captivated the crowd by sharing memories of his early days of activism. His hilarious story of “seeking his first arrest” at the feet of three Philadelphia police officers during the civil rights movement offered a great example of youthful naiveté – and how lessons learned can nevertheless form the foundation for a lifetime of amazing activism.

The award ceremony began with words from the Festival's first Honorary Chairperson, Leslie Cagan, national coordinator of United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ). Since 2001, UFPJ has represented the largest voice of grassroots peace activism across North America, with more than 1,400 local and regional coalition members. In a fitting note, Cagan introduced one of those UFPJ affiliates as this year's Local

Area Peace Prize recipient: the Rockland Coalition for Peace and Justice (RCPJ). By mid-September, RCPJ had publicly protested against the war for 300 consecutive Saturdays. During the ceremony, the winner of the brand-new Youth and Militarism Award – a San Francisco Bay Area coalition called BAY-Peace – was also announced (no representative was able to be present).

In addition to the serious and somber moments, the fourth annual festival was also filled with good times and lots of laughter. Peace-centered music, provided by several professional performers and the Peace Through Play Nursery School, was featured on stage; a children's section, coordinated by the staff at Creative Response to Conflict (www.crc-global.org), offered storytelling, face-painting, and games; book authors signed their titles amidst a large section of local nonprofits and crafts vendors; and a magnificent art show offered the work of three dozen painters, sculptors, and photographers reflecting on the message of peace.

“Everyone who came up to me – the performers, crafts people, volunteers, and members of RCPJ – was very enthusiastic,” said Mary Heckler, FOR's new events coordinator and Peace House host. “We're now establishing a local FOR group in Nyack to work with our staff to engage the regional community on an ongoing basis – for next year's festival, and other special events.” Looking ahead, Heckler continued, “We're already planning a ‘Winter Solstice’ observance for this December 21st – hopefully more and more people will be introduced to Shadowcliff and the important work for peace and justice that happens here.”

TASK FORCE ON LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

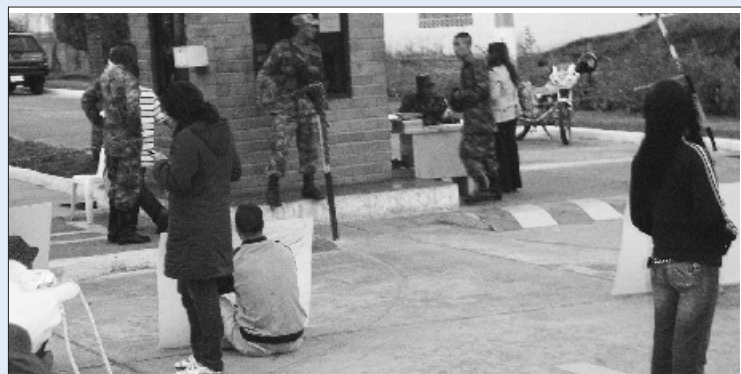
Making Space for the Courageous in Colombia Transforming Militarism at Home

by John Lindsay-Poland

Judicial Advance in Colombia, but War Threatens

FOR continues to operate an on-the-ground team in the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, which both the international community and Colombian government have made a key test case for respect

for human rights. Recent weeks have seen a breakthrough for efforts to hold military officials accountable for the high-profile massacre in February 2005 in which paramilitary and army soldiers brutally murdered two families in San José de Apartadó, and for the army cover-up that followed. In September, a colonel and major were arrested



Colombian residents preparing for demonstration in front of the army base.

for their participation in the massacre, and an investigation may be opened on a commanding general for telling an officer who pled guilty not to testify about the presence of death squad paramilitaries in his unit.

However, the war in San José has escalated, with threats to Peace Community members and other peasant farmers in the area by army soldiers and hundreds of paramilitary troops. Violence elsewhere in the country has also escalated, with disappearances of pastors, the murder of a Nasa indigenous leader, a crackdown on striking sugarcane workers, and over 270,000 Colombians fleeing their homes this year. The presence in mountainous settlements of 200-300 paramilitaries has not been seen for years in San José and is rare in most of Colombia which raises the question – how are illegal paramilitaries able to organize in an area that is so heavily militarized by the armed forces?

Community members responded to this threatening presence by organizing a five-day pilgrimage in October, beginning with a symbolic funeral march to the nearby army base (see photo). Through intense weather, tropical illnesses, and combat nearby, the FOR team continues to provide protective accompaniment to this courageous peasant community. A six-day training session in Nyack prepared a new team from England, Sweden and the United States, to carry on, when current team members return

to California, Washington, DC, and Quebec.

Documenting the Problem

FOR has obtained key military records of US aid to the Colombian armed forces, exposing the false claims that military assistance protects human rights. "According to the New York-based Fellowship of Reconciliation," the Los Angeles Times wrote in an editorial, "47% of the extrajudicial killings were committed by army units that had been vetted by the U.S. State Department."

Coming Up –

FOR's Nonviolent Youth Collective and Colombia program, in collaboration with the Not Your Soldier Project, is organizing an eleven city Drop Beats Not Bombs tour in November to support conscientious objectors and counter-recruitment organizers at home and in Colombia. Political hip hop artist "Invincible," Colombian

conscientious objector Paula Galeano and FOR staff are offering speaking events, hip hop concerts and workshops to connect with youth around the country who are working to resist militarism through creative action.

FOR continues to publish a monthly update on Colombia; to subscribe, write to: johnlp@igc.org.

Flowers and Bananas

National Council member Zara Zimbaro participated in FOR's August delegation to Colombia that focused on impunity for human rights crimes and community struggles to overcome it. Some of her reflections follow.

We are exploring many interconnected facets of impunity and strategies of nonviolent resistance. Deepening understanding of the tremendous power and bleakness of the forces that create and maintain impunity is overwhelming, and in this context the spaces of hope, courage, persistence, solidarity, inspiration and community shine all the more brightly. As U.S. citizens we are keeping an eye on the role of the U.S. in the Colombian conflict, and two examples in particular struck me – the flower and banana trades.

Flowers and bananas are products that for me have connotations of friendliness, com-

fort, beauty, innocence, and are expressions of love or simple sustenance - unlike resources like oil and diamonds which the public knows are implicated in horrifying systems of violence. It was devastating to learn about how companies like Chiquita are intimately linked to state violence and paramilitary terror. A paramilitary leader boasted that a major victory was to get arms shipments through the private port of Chiquita. Massive vio-

lence is used to forcibly displace communities to make way for plantations, and the mechanisms to hold a company like Chiquita accountable and demand justice and reparation are ineffective and offensive at best. The peace community of San Jose has been affected by banana-trade violence and is working in collaboration with other organizations to challenge the company.

While I was familiar with the hideousness of the history of fruit trade in Central and South America, it was new to learn about the flower industry. We heard from a spokesperson

from CACTUS, an organization that provides legal support to women workers in the flower industry, of the (Neo)colonial patterns of undermining native economic security and food sovereignty by forcing the creation of export-only, monocrop plantations of commercial luxury items to pay off external debt. Not a new story, but I am seeing it with new eyes in a new context.

In this case flowers (shipped to the U.S. and Europe, with the highest demand for Valentines Day) are part of the commercial component of the "drug war drugs," "replacing" illicit crops. While this succeeds as an economic model it fails as a development model, and women bear the worst brunt. They face discrimination, are not allowed to organize, are denied workers' rights, and are unable to obtain medical aid for work-related disabilities from cutting flowers and being exposed to pesticides. The women supported by CACTUS are demanding trade with justice, and dignity and visibility as workers in this industry.

Which products do we think about deeply as consumers? While supporting fair trade coffee and chocolate are on the collective radar, it seems that bananas and especially flowers are not understood as emblematic of unjust trade that affects thousands of lives. How do we allow ourselves to be shocked by the familiar? How might flower-flooded holidays like Valentines Day be a reminder to broaden our vision and compassion and solidarity? The name CACTUS signifies that while a rose cannot be a rose without its thorns, so a cactus always blooms with a flower of hope.

NC member and August 2008 TFLAC delegate, Zara Zimbaro.



On September 1, 2008, when leaving work, our Susana Pimiento-Chamorro, TFLAC Co-Director based in Bogotá, Colombia was hit by a taxi. We feel deeply Susana's place in our work and lives, in the wake of the car accident that fractured a number of her bones and came close to killing her. Her recovery will take some time, and we continue to encourage NC and staff to send her letters and greetings of support (forcolombia@igc.org).

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IRAN

The Value of Respectful Dialogue: FOR hosts meeting between Iran's President Ahmadinejad and the U.S. peace community

by Priscilla Fairbank

Women Against War (WAW) and other peace groups received an invitation from the Fellowship of Reconciliation, in collaboration with the Iranian Mission to the United Nations, to participate in a gathering of the peace community with President Ahmadinejad when he was in NYC for the annual start of the U.N. General Assembly. I had the privilege to attend the meeting as the WAW representative.

The invitation framed the goal: The meeting is being held in order to introduce President Ahmadinejad to the peace community in the United States and to illustrate how this sector of civil society works to oppose war and the use of violence to resolve differences.

We were each asked to send, in advance, the story of how our organization was formed and how we "work to advance the agenda in practice" – again, to illustrate the power of civil society and nonviolence to effect change.

We were also given the opportunity to submit statements of concern about the current relationship between the U.S. and Iran that would elicit a response from President Ahmadinejad.

The question submitted by WAW was carefully written. It asked how vital dialogue between Iranian citizens and U.S. citizens desiring peace with each other can continue if the Iranians who seek cooperation with U.S. non-governmental organizations are then accused of trying to bring about the overthrow of the government of Iran? It stated our strong opposition to the covert efforts of the U.S. government to overthrow the Iranian government. It emphasized the importance of building bridges between Iranians working for peace and groups like our own, and asked, "How can your government support Iranians working to build bridges with us?" The more specific part of the question asked about Dr. Kamiar Alaei and Dr. Arash Alaei, respected HIV/AIDS researchers, who were arrested in Iran in June 2008 and are still being held. It expressed our shock; Kamiar Alaei is known in



Priscilla Fairbank, Dec. 2007 Iran delegate (on the right) and Leila, a medical student working with the Society for Chemical Weapons Victims Support. Photo taken at the Peace Museum in Tehran, Dec. 2007.

our community for his work at the SUNY Albany School of Public Health, and he had attended the send-off event for Barbara Spring and me before our FOR trip to Iran last December.

All of the 100 questions submitted and the descriptions of some 45 of the dozens of organizations represented were compiled in a 50-page document. A committee carefully selected 11 questions that covered a range of issues, to be read in person at the meeting. Twenty-four hours before the meeting, I received a call from FOR asking if I would be willing to read the WAW question, and if I would be first. The part of our question that had been chosen was the more general one about the role of dialogue and the place of citizen involvement.

The experience was very exciting. The meeting was held at the Grand Hyatt in Manhattan. We were asked not to share news of the meeting with any press until after it concluded. Even in the hotel lobby, there were no notices about the meeting or where it was being held. The hope was not to attract attention or potential protest. There was a great deal of security, including NYC Police, Iranian national security, and U.S. Secret Service.

It was great to see three other members of our FOR December 2007 delegation to Iran. It was also very humbling to be in such an impressive group of 150 peace activists. Many of the organizations were familiar to me and a number of the individuals' names I knew and respected for their work: Jim Fine and Joe Volk of FCNL, Robert Dreyfuss of The Nation, Medea Benjamin of Code Pink, Rev. Bill Sinkford of the Unitarian Universalist Association, Doug Hostetter of the Menonite Central Committee, and members of Pax Christi, Granny Peace Brigade, CASMII, Just Foreign Policy, and many others.

I felt there was an interesting tension for each of us between all the issues in Iran that we protest against and this opportunity to meet with President Ahmadinejad; after all, we were "meeting with the enemy." Before the dignitaries arrived, Mark Johnson, executive director of FOR, suggested we hold three thoughts in mind: hospitality, trust, and welcome the stranger...

President Ahmadinejad was accompanied by Foreign Minister Mottaki and U.N. Ambassador Khazae. They were given the packet of questions and background information when they arrived; they had not seen them prior to that. (This document is available on FOR's blog, www.FORpeace.net – look under Mark Johnson's post of 9/28/08, attachment: PC Statements and Questions.) Leila Zand gave a welcome in Farsi, the Ambassador gave a welcome on behalf of the Iranian Mission to the U.N., and Mark Johnson gave the opening speech, setting the tone of respect, openness, and directly addressing issues of concern. (His Letter to President Ahmadinejad can be read in full on www.FORpeace.net – look under Mark's post of 9/27, the attachment.)

President Ahmadinejad looked up as each of the 11 of us went for-

very excited about how encouraging all his responses were. Upon reflection over the next several days, I realized that he is a skillful politician and had avoided answering the more difficult points of some questions, while generally pleasing his audience.

On the issue of women, he spoke with animation and humor. "Let me tell you the truth about women: they're about to replace me," he joked. He said he has two female vice-presidents and "when they say something, no one dares oppose them." He further explained that women are very active in all fields and that 70% of university students are women. The majority of the employees of the Iranian Central Bank are women; Ahmadinejad joked that if the U.S. Treasury had had more women, we might have avoided the current fiscal crisis. He then sounded quite poetic as he spoke of how womanhood is defined in a different way in Iranian society; the mother has higher status and respect in the family; and a woman is seen as sublime beauty, kind-

three times more on solar and wind than on nuclear.

When asked whether Iran would accept an Israeli-Palestinian two-state solution, he responded that it was not up to Iran to decide. He emphasized that it was a decision for the Palestinian people: whatever they choose, if they have a fair referendum, must be accepted by all other nations. He said Iran is against war, and it is war when people are forced from their homes and their land.

The President said Iran is a friend of all nations around the world. He said, "We are ready to have positive dialogue and exchange." He joked that they could suggest that the next U.S. administration work with our peace organizations to learn how to have positive relations. There was little in what he said that one could argue with. He had been invited to a meeting based on respect; his demeanor had none of the bellicose aspects that receive so much play in mainstream press. From the two hours I spent in this meeting with Ahmadinejad, he appeared



September 25, 2008 meeting: seated from left to right: Mark C. Johnson; Bahman Akhavan, Parliament representative; Leila Zand; Mohammad Khazae, Iran Ambassador to the U.N.; President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Golam-Housain Elham.

ward to read our questions. He took notes. The questions covered the role of dialogue and citizen involvement, role of diversity, role of youth in political process, citizen diplomacy – visa process, people-to-people projects, nuclear energy and nuclear arms, alternative energy, position on Israel and Palestine, possibility of negotiations, and next steps of cooperation, trust, and regional stability.

At the end of our questions, President Ahmadinejad gave a speech about the evils of war and the need to address the root causes of war. (We had the benefit of headsets with simultaneous translations.) He identified selfishness, expansionism, and not respecting laws and justice as basic causes. He said it was a failure of those who have lost their morality and that politics and morality must walk "hand in hand."

In responding to our 11 questions, he addressed each of us by name, and then gave an answer, always communicating pride of positive things in Iran and willing cooperation with us. I felt

respectful, not loud, thoughtful, and sometimes humorous. He is a good politician, speaking well and knowing what to say to please his audience. We also have to remember that he is not the most powerful decision maker in Iran and that he is facing a presidential election next June.

On the issue of exchanges and visas, he stated that he would prepare the Iranian side so that we can have more exchanges. He said right then to the Ambassador that he wanted visas to be made more available. But there is a rule of reciprocity, he explained, and called on us to do what we could to pressure our government to allow more Iranians to visit.

On the nuclear issue, he reminded us that, 40 years ago, the U.S. signed a nuclear agreement with Iran because the U.S. wanted Iran to develop its nuclear industry. If the U.S. were serious about lessening nuclear tensions in the Middle East, we should have disarmed Israel. He stated that the time for an atomic bomb has passed; no one should be talking about making bombs. He said although nuclear energy is important in Iran, they are spending

respectful, not loud, thoughtful, and sometimes humorous. He is a good politician, speaking well and knowing what to say to please his audience. We also have to remember that he is not the most powerful decision maker in Iran and that he is facing a presidential election next June.

I don't expect immediate changes as a result of this meeting, but I think it was very significant. It demonstrates the value of respectful dialogue. I appreciate that the Iranian President, U.N. Ambassador, and Foreign Minister were all willing to take the time to meet with us and to face difficult questions. I have great respect for the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the thoughtful, patient manner in which they brought about this historic meeting.

President Ahmadinejad did not answer many of the specific questions that I still want to have addressed; but he came and he listened. I believe the conversation will continue. That is what is important.



Photo of plaque presented to President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad by U.S. peace organizations.

FOR Fellowship of Reconciliation Annual Report

FY08: JULY 1, 2007 - JUNE 30, 2008

Our Vision:

We envision a world of justice, peace, and freedom. It is a revolutionary vision of a beloved community where differences are respected, conflicts are addressed nonviolently, oppressive structures are dismantled, and where people live in harmony with the earth, nurtured by diverse spiritual traditions that foster compassion, solidarity, and reconciliation.

Our Mission:

FOR seeks to replace violence, war, racism, and economic injustice with nonviolence, peace, and justice. We are an interfaith organization committed to active nonviolence as a transforming way of life and as a means of

radical change. We educate, train, build coalitions, and engage in nonviolent and compassionate actions locally, nationally, and globally.

Since 1915, The Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) has carried on programs and educational projects concerned with domestic and international peace and justice, nonviolent alternatives to conflict, and the rights of conscience. A nonviolent, interfaith, tax exempt organization, FOR promotes nonviolence and has members from many religious and ethnic traditions. It is a part of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR), which has affiliates in over 40 countries.

Dear Members and Friends of FOR:

In spite of significant progress in stabilizing FOR's operational framework and deepening program presence in Colombia, Iran and in the field of Youth & Militarism across the United States, it remains a challenge to do our work in a very fragile economy and a heavily militarized world.

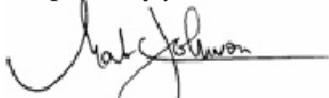
A period of transition beginning late in 2006 has now culminated with a complete National Council and staff complement, most members of which are new to FOR in recent years. The National Council has adopted a new election procedure which largely moves the selection process to local chapters and religious peace fellowships. Three regions will select six new candidates to the National Council each year and the National Council Committee will select two additional members.

In order to engage the best staff, without requiring relocation to Nyack and with limited expectations of travel, staff now works from eight different locations and relies heavily on electronic communication for day to day working relationships.

Fellowship magazine has been increased in size but reduced to four issues per year. To offset the reduced frequency of the magazine, FOR has added internet-based communication tools including a blog-site which carries commentary and action suggestions from across the Fellowship and community of peers. Do visit www.forpeace.net for content that changes on a nearly daily basis.

This is the first annual report in some years. It tells the story of strong program, careful stewardship of financial assets, response to world-wide challenges begging for nonviolent social change and well-framed action by women and men committed to peace and social justice, to the Beloved Community.

Respectfully yours in Peace & Love,



Mark C. Johnson
Executive Director

My FOR Legacy

by Johannes Sauerland

The Fellowship of Reconciliation is an international organization. Although the community in the United States is the largest of the national FOR networks, there are a lot of countries around the globe in which a national FOR group exists.

With the aid of the German FOR, I'm currently in the middle of a six-month internship here at the FOR headquarters in Nyack. My home is in Buende, a small town in Germany, and ever since I was a little child, I've been connected to the German FOR.



My parents are long time members. Every year we drive to the annual conference in the former German capital, Bonn. Each year, this 4-day conference hosts approximately 400 hundred people. Various speakers present different views on a particular topic. For the 2008 annual meeting, we invited the well-known professor for peace and conflict studies, Michael Nagler.

The problems and conflicts we are dealing with in Germany are the same as in the United States. We are concerned about the developments in the Middle East, about Iraq, about the Israel-Palestine conflict and also about problems in Africa. I believe the central reason for fighting is that people prejudge other people who are different. The German FOR

(Excerpt from) Why I support FOR

by Martha DiGiovanni

Fellowship of Reconciliation is where my faith in God finds engagement in this world. To be a part of FOR is to be a part of a legacy that rejects fear and violence and demonstrates that nonviolent action leads to deeper community. FOR member A. J. Muste said "There is no way to peace, peace is the way."

I am a practicing Roman Catholic woman. I find membership in this interfaith community inviting and inclusive. FOR membership and sup-

port allows me to live that faith in the company of others who share a common yearning for all humanity to resolve inevitable conflict with compassion, truth and reconciliation. Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists and all journey and meet on the threshold of what is and what could be.

I invite you to join FOR. When you give it means you are helping to stop the next war, you are preparing youth to counter terrorism and live in the global community where "others" are not combatant enemies. In short you are giving peace a chance.



Mark C. Johnson and activist/musician Si Kahn on June 21, 2008.



Not Your Soldier workshop participants discuss how militarism has impacted their lives. November 2008.

believes intercultural encounters are a useful way for ending cross-cultural conflicts. To create these intercultural encounters, the German FOR organizes different work camps all over the world.

I see my experience here in the U.S. as a way of developing both my personal self and also my life's horizons. But, of course, I'm also having a lot of fun. This combination of fun and learning is one of the things I like most about my internship at FOR USA.

Getting to meet other like-minded young people here at FOR in the United States and also at home is very important to me. Although I'm only 19 years old, I have attended many annual conferences, and in recent years I've noticed a positive

development in the German FOR called 'Versoehnungsband' (loosely translated into English as 'fellowship'). When I was a child, there were very few programs for children; but now we have many teenagers and young adults attending the conferences, and there are many activities and programs specifically designed for us to come together in fellowship.

Growing up with a nonviolent background is very important as well. To see people spending their whole life working for peace and justice all over the world is an experience that has shown me everybody has the opportunity to improve the world. It may not seem like much, but a small step forward is better than none at all.

Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean

- FOR's Colombia team of three volunteers continues to offer protective accompaniment to San José de Apartadó, a peasant community that challenges the war by refusing to participate while staying on their lands. This community has experienced more than 170 killings since 1997. The international support FOR and others generate led to charges this year of high military officers for a brutal massacre of two community leaders and their families.
- FOR's team of two in Bogotá continues to accompany the Antioquia Peasant Association and Medellín Youth Network.
- The Arts and Action youth delegation to Colombia in March collaborated with Colombian youth groups: conducting workshops, cooking together, picketing a military base where a conscientious objector was being held (he

was released soon after), and forming friendships.

- With the American Friends Service Committee, we published a powerful collection of testimonies of hope by Colombian women who face violence on many levels and are organizing their communities. FOR worked with local organizers to pass three city resolutions in California, calling on the federal government to re-invest the billions of dollars in Colombian military aid into our communities for drug treatment programs.

In April FOR co-published a report with Amnesty International that analyzed where US military training and hardware go in Colombia and its relation to killings by the Colombian army. Our findings led the Los Angeles Times to call for an end to funding "domestic terrorism."



Red Juvenil demonstrators in March 2008 TFLAC campaign.



September 25, 2008 meeting: seated from left to right: Mark C. Johnson; Bahman Akhavan, Parliament representative; Leila Zand; Mohammad Khazaie, Iran Ambassador to the U.N.; President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Golam-Housain Elham.

IRAN Program

FOR's Iran program completed its third year having taken major steps forward while facing several challenges. By Fall 2008, the U.S. peace and justice community broadly viewed FOR as the organizational leader in the movement to prevent war with Iran.

We sent three civilian diplomacy delegations to Iran in FY 2008, in December 2007, February-March 2008, and April-May 2008. Thirty-five delegates came from 19 U.S. states, plus the District of Columbia and the United Kingdom. Delegates ranged in age from 20 to 75, with diverse backgrounds and professions, including the first woman rabbi to ever travel to the country. Returning home, the delegates were featured in hundreds of stories in mainstream and independent media.

FOR staff and delegates participated in meetings with Nobel Peace Prize recipient Shirin Ebadi, current President Ahmadinejad, past President Khatami, U.N. Ambassador

Khazaee, and other leaders. Yet access to diverse voices has been limited, and our 12/07 delegation was officially prohibited from holding formal meetings.

FOR cosponsored two U.S. speaking tours in 2008, the Folly of Attacking Iran tour, featuring journalist Stephen Kinzer, and the No War on Iran tour, featuring Scott Ritter, which reached thousands of people in some 30 cities. We also deepened partnerships with groups like Just Foreign Policy, United for Peace & Justice, the National Iranian American Council, the Center for Arms Control & Nonproliferation, and the Campaign Against Sanctions & Military Intervention in Iran.

All this work was done with only one staff person. With increasing attention to and demands on our Iran program in both nations, and rapidly rising travel costs, FOR needs to strengthen our capacity so that we can more effectively engage in this critical peace work.

Youth and Militarism

The Youth and Militarism (Y&M) program supports creative youth resistance to militarism, guided by principles of anti-oppression, art & action, and spiritual self care. Primary projects are Not Your Soldier, I Will Not Kill, Peacemaker Training Institutes (PTIs), and the Nonviolent Youth Collective. Staff work from St. Paul & Washington DC, and are often on the road.

Not Your Soldier, a collaboration with War Resisters League and Ruckus Society, empowers youth to resist the poverty draft. Y&M's strategy is to organize the organizers, provide training, resources, and support to youth and small organizations. In 2008, Y&M piloted the approach in partnership with the Minneapolis group Youth Against War and Racism, working to strengthen school based counter-recruitment campaigns.

FOR's primary role with Not Your

Soldier has been organizing and facilitating trainings. Ranging from afternoon workshops on conflict resolution to week-long PTIs, FOR has trained over 700 youth and youth allies to date, and will bring that number to approximately 1200 by the end of the calendar year.

With I Will Not Kill, a conscientious objection pledge campaign popular among faith communities, Y&M asks youth to consider military service in relationship to their spiritual or moral beliefs regarding killing.

To support these efforts artists and facilitators are engaged through the Nonviolent Youth Collective. Y&M also collaborates with FOR's international programs, and sent multiple youth to Iran in May and co-sponsored the Youth Arts Delegation to Colombia in March. Before the close of FY08, Y&M initiated and/or joined national strategy conversations with many ally organizations.



Not Your Soldier Goshen, IN workshop participants transforming the war machine through a Theatre of the Oppressed exercise.



Right of center: Rev. Dr. James Forbes and far right, Rev. Dr. Hillary Gaston, Sr.: discussion group during FOR and the Olive Branch Interfaith Peace Partnership's Interfaith Peace Witness, March 2008.

Communications

FOR made great strides in FY 2008 in our communications efforts, especially online, and also supported and strengthened several coalitions by offering communications staff time and expertise.

In late June 2007, we launched FOR's first blog, www.FORpeace.net, during the U.S. Social Forum in Atlanta. Traffic to the blog increased 400% over the following year. The blog and other web-based efforts – like Facebook, Flickr, Second Life, Change.org, and Twitter – have helped FOR recruit new and younger supporters and do more effective online fundraising. FOR's primary URL, www.forusa.org, saw a 25% increase in traffic. In 2009, FOR will build a new web site which will integrate all of our online content.

We moved our e-messaging to DemocracyInAction.org, cutting costs by 40% while increasing capacity. Over the year, a net gain of 1,000 new e-mail addresses joined our system, currently over 19,000 members. Monthly e-newsletters are sent to our general list, a Columbia-specific list (4,000 recipients), and occasionally to specific geo-

graphic regions or constituencies.

Three issues of Fellowship were published during the fiscal year, addressing these themes: "Pluralizing Sustainability, Sustaining Pluralism," "Resisting Silence," and "Maintaining Dr. King's Legacy." Subscribers total over 6,000.

FOR Communications helped revive an interfaith peace movement by building and launching web sites for the Interfaith Fast to End the War in Iraq (www.interfaithfast.org) and the Olive Branch Interfaith Peace Partnership (www.olivebranchinterfaith.org). We also supported the planning for those national events. We reengaged contacts with Religious Peace Fellowships and FOR Local & Affiliated Groups, networks that had not been nationally staffed in two years.

Moreover, our staff co-led a peace delegation to Iran and coordinated staffing for FOR's first advocacy training on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. Also in FY08, the FOR Bookstore significantly improved its accounting and delivery procedures, and used new marketing initiatives to sell large quantities of back stock.

Development

While being a year of transition for the department, Development continues to advance FOR via membership and planned giving administration, grantsmanship, and special event coordination.

In FY2008, the contributions brought in via printed appeals and the winter and summer issues of *Witness* totalled approximately: \$270,090. Bequests for FY2008 totalled: \$461,064.

The Development & Communications departments collaborated to produce a slightly revised membership brochure (Statement of Purpose). To date, for FY2008, our membership has increased by 222 new members.

With guidance from the NC Development Committee, "Where's Your Heart?," an internal fundraising campaign was created and implemented.

Staff changes during FY2008 include the hiring of Mary Heckler as special events coordinator/peace house host.

The 2007 Festival of Peace was expanded over a 4-day period by FOR's collaboration with two community organizations: the Martin Luther King, Jr. Multi-Purpose Center of Spring Valley, NY and River-space, a not-for-profit arts & cultural center. Celebratory events included a workshop featuring bias awareness training, a movie screening with a panel discussion, and an evening cruise. The Festival culminated on Sunday, September 16.

FOR was notified in FY2008 that it was the recipient of a 3-year (\$15,000) grant from the New Visions Foundation to study the effects of our organizational carbon footprint.

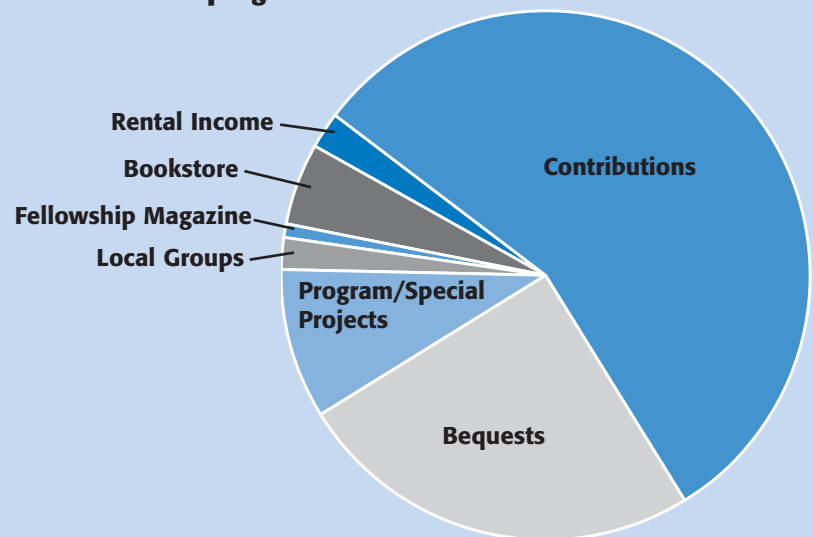
Looking forward in to FY 2009, plans are underway to build capacity through the hire of a Development Co-Director,* increasing grantsmanship, and expanding membership and donor outreach. *(NOTE: Bill Winston was hired as Co-Director of Development in August 2008).

Fiscal Year 2008 Revenue & Expenses

Support and Revenue

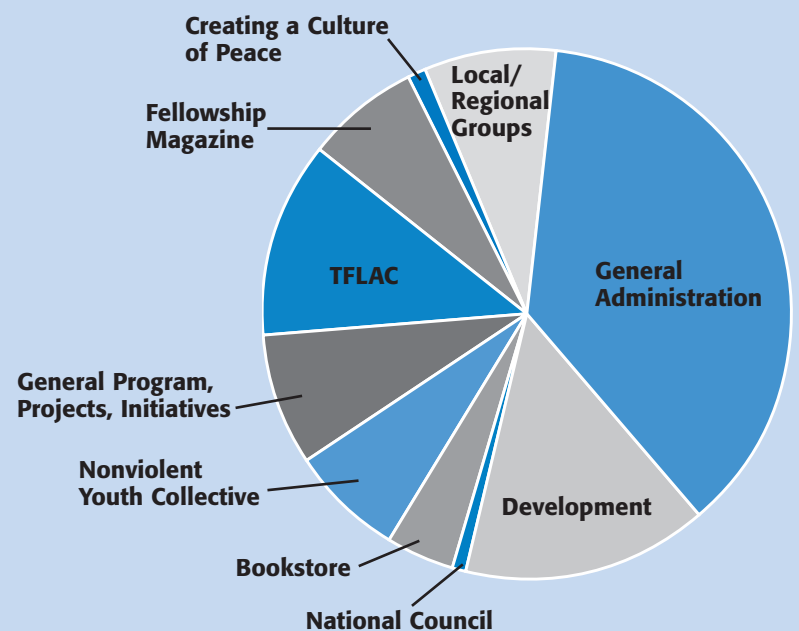
Contributions	\$1,023,878.00
Bequests	\$461,044.00
Local Groups	\$29,700.00
Program/Special Projects	\$165,295.00
Fellowship Magazine	\$19,492.00
Bookstore	\$84,449.00
Rental Income	\$31,770.00
TOTAL	\$1,815,628.00

NOTE: Program/Special Projects includes Iran, TFLAC and Youth & Militarism programs.



Expenditures

Campaign of Conscience	
Disarmament	
Interfaith Peace Builders	
Local/Regional Groups	\$149,921.00
Creating a Culture of Peace	\$17,014.00
Nonviolent Youth Collective	\$127,019.00
TFLAC	\$230,595.00
Gen'l Program, Projects, Initiatives	\$146,952.00
Fellowship Magazine	\$128,977.00
Bookstore	\$72,297.00
National Council	\$13,973.00
Development	\$283,846.00
General Administration	\$680,844.00
TOTAL	\$1,851,438.00



**(Excerpt from)
Why I support FOR**

by Sarah Schindler

For me, supporting FOR rewards me by making me feel that I am making a small contribution towards a much larger movement that will ultimately change the world.

Many of us are frustrated and ultimately feel defeated by the world around us. We see the erosion of so many gains made by our society. Add to this the destruction of the planet and the entrenched policy of warfare, among many other disturbing trends in the US.

“What can I do, I don’t have much money, I don’t have any influence, I am not able to affect social change on my own?” I’ve felt this way and I know I’m not alone.

I feel that FOR provides part of the answer. It changes the world every day in the minds and hearts of those who participate in its programs, attend its local meetings, and read its magazine. And FOR has directly and concretely made a difference in the lives of conscientious objectors, in the lives of the youth who participate in our non-violence training, and in the civilian diplomats and the people they touch on our delegations. And internationally, it is making a difference in Zimbabwe and in countless other countries whose existence is threatened by violence. These are only few of the reasons why I support FOR, and why, you should, too.

FOR National Staff

**Mark C. Johnson, Ph.D.,
Executive Director**

Administration:

**Hillary Gaston, Sr., D.Min.,
Director of Operations**
Karen Heurer, Bookkeeper
**Mary Heckler, Events
Coordinator/Peace House Host**
**Tom Morrison, Reception/
Contact Specialist**

Communications:

Ethan Vesely-Flad, Co-Director
**Ruby Sinreich, Co-Director
(Winston-Salem, NC)**
**Diana Lazaro,
Bookstore Manager**

Development:

**Jonette O’Kelley Miller,
Co-Director**
Bill Winston, Co-Director
**Linda Kelly,
Development Assistant**
**Nicole Taylor,
Database Assistant**

Iran:

Leila Zand, Co-Director

**Task Force on Latin America and the
Caribbean (TFLAC):**

**John Lindsey-Poland,
Co-Director (Oakland, CA)**
**Susanna Pimiento-Chamorro,
Co-Director (Bogotá, Colombia)**
**Liza Smith, Colombia Campaign
Coordinator (Oakland, CA)**

Youth & Militarism:

**Maryrose Dolezal, Co-Director
(St. Paul, MN)**
**Shauen Pearce, Co-Director
(St. Paul, MN)**
**Brie Phillips, Freeman Fellow
(Washington, DC)**

How We Built Our FOR Chapter In Riverside, CA

by Marilyn Sequoia and Linda Dunn

The Inland Communities chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (ICFOR) was formed in 2003 by individuals who share the values of FOR.

The first year, ICFOR held a silent candlelight vigil for Peace on Earth NOW. Signs featured the word “Peace” in several languages. This vigil has become one of our annual events. It concludes with participants placing candles on a huge peace sign chalked on the walkway.

In 2004 we arranged for the young, passionate Hindolo Pokawa of the Nonviolent Peaceforce to speak to 10+ groups in Riverside, including one high school and college campuses, where Hindolo told of his experiences with violence growing up in Sierra Leone, Africa, and the transforming power of nonviolence. At each event we collected names and email addresses to expand our contacts for future events and to build ICFOR membership.

As our group outreach efforts increase, we better understand how to live our beliefs in peace and nonviolence. We engage in actions such as welcoming, listening, focusing, taking a stand, sharing, talking, debating, negotiating, and finding consensus. We have learned to be respectful when we disagree, and to seek common ground. These are the building blocks of active nonviolence.

In 2006 ICFOR became aware that Mahatma Gandhi organized and led his very FIRST large-scale nonviolent social action for justice in South Africa on September 11, 1906. The book by Michael Nagler, *Hope or Terror: Gandhi and the Other 9/11* provides the basis for our annual commemoration of both 9/11’s at Riverside’s GANDHI statue. We invite participation by members of Riverside’s diverse community, including local churches, synagogues, temples, and the local mosque. Consequently, ICFOR has succeeded in forging deeper relationships with Muslims, Unitarians, Catholics, Religious Scientists, Quakers, Mennonites, and Hindus.

This year’s “The Other 9/11”, opened with the University of California at Riverside’s (UCR) exuberant Japanese Taiko Drumming group. A local song-writer sang his version of how to live a peaceful life, a member read her poem, “The Body Politic,” stating that violence is NOT our normal state. The Hindu community sang an ethereally peaceful song, and the Imam of the local Muslim mosque sent a message of peace. A member blew the Jewish Shofur, and volunteers read quotes from Jeffrey Moses’ book, *ONENESS: Principles Shared by the World’s Religions*. A man who had studied in India gave an inspiring presentation on how the means for change determines the ends. A recent graduate from Costa Rica’s University of Peace discussed the newly forming concept of “The Right to Prevent.” Our purpose was to recognize that NONVIOLENCE remains a viable choice. Even in this violent world we can join together from differing religions and cultures to find common ground; we can find ways to respect one another; and, to find solutions beyond violence. “The Other 9/11” was a success - it was our finest hour so far.

Additional events hosted/sponsored by ICFOR include: the Oakland, CA, FOR’s Right to Resist Tour 2005,

the ‘07-‘08 UCR Mellon Grant Speaker Series: Gandhi and His Legacy, a Child Leader Project 2008-09 in India through an amazing student and the Department of Religion at UCR (seeded by a \$10,000 Grant). We plan to sponsor FOR-USA’s 2009 Drug Wars and Colombia Tour. We developed a Nonviolent and Peace Resource Directory for the Inland Communities of SoCal (20 entries so far). This Directory facilitates the networking of peace organizations and congregations. Through our email lists, we drew 20 people to a one-day class, Nonviolent Conflict Intervention, trained and sponsored by the Nonviolent Peaceforce.

We seek tabling opportunities, such as Inland Agency’s Peace Week, the NAACP’s annual Juneteenth Celebration, and the city’s Day of the Arts. We join in actions to end the Iraq War with local peace groups, we partner with groups to bring nonviolence, peacemaking and peacekeeping to the fore especially “to get the word out,” for those not already part of the peace and justice movement.

Our little chapter of FOR is growing in outreach and involvement, and in support of like-minded community, school, and religious organizations, persons, and events. We communicate with the media, we hand out our cards, flyers, and brochures (both local and national). We promote peace and social justice in our local community.



Inland Communities FOR’s “The Other 9/11” Event. Photo courtesy of ICFOR.



Inland Communities FOR “The Other 9/11” closing event. Photo courtesy of ICFOR.

“Though retired from full-time ministry, I still manage to ‘preach the gospel of peace’ once every two months or so at our local Methodist/Presbyterian Union Church, and acquaint people I meet with FOR.”
~ E. Julius Davis,
Nov. 2008

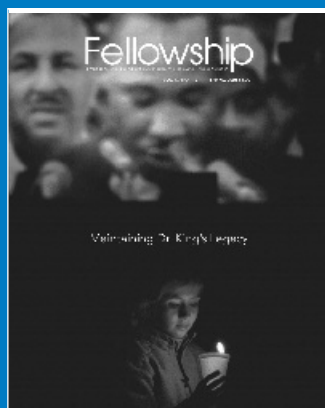


View from the home of E. Julius Davis and Carolyn Atkin in Cherry Point, New Zealand.

Fellowship



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YOUTH & MILITARISM

Using the Arts for Organizing

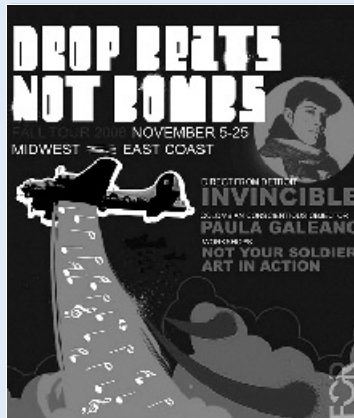
by Linda Kelly

In its mission to support conscientious objectors and fight military enlistment, the Non Violent Youth Collective uses three organizing principles: spiritually based self care, anti-oppression analysis and arts-based activism. FOR's Peacemaker Training Institute in collaboration with the Nonviolent Youth Collective employs these principles and, thus, the Arts and Action Training for Trainers is an important component of the facilitator training process.

Arts and Action Training is a three-day weekend intensive workshop in how to use concrete art based skills as organizing tools. Brie Philips, 25, the lead organizer for FOR's Youth and Militarism Program and a member of the Non Violent Youth Collective, a national collective of FOR's young adult artists, facilitators and organizers, explains that art is valuable as a multifaceted approach to organizing. "Art brings in aspects of culture, creativity and beauty which are essential to living our lives as whole people. It can be an incredibly effective tool because art is universal and gives people a common ground - art is oftentimes a better method for reaching people than facts and figures."

The art mediums used in the Arts and Action Training for Trainers are offered in two "tracks" or focuses: Visual Arts or Street Theater, Dance and Movement. The visual arts track offers instruction in silk screening, stenciling, banner making, poster design, graphic design for t-shirts or wearable art, and puppet making. The emphasis is on how to create effective messaging with a specific goal and for a specific audience.

The Street Theater, Dance and Movement track uses performance arts in organizing to attract attention, to make a point and to illicit an emotional response from an audience. For example, it demonstrates that seeing young



people crumple to the ground as if dead has a stronger impact on an audience than merely saying words to the effect that our youth are dying in the war. Humor, exaggeration, and satire are also common tools used in street theater performances.

Johannes Sauerland, 19, an intern with FOR from Buende, Germany, participated in the Arts and Action Training held at FOR headquarters in Nyack, NY on October 17 - 19. Johannes, affectionately called 'Johnny' by FOR staff, is interested in peace-making although he is not a trainer like the other participants who were already involved in organizing to some extent, and, although well spoken and quite fluent, English is his second language. Also, Johnny, by his own words is not artistically inclined.

"No, I'm not an artist," he said, "So, I thought I was going to be scared, but the facilitators were really great." (The facilitators for the October training were Youth and Militarism Program staff Maryrose Dolezal, Cesar Maxit, a visual artist and direct action trainer, Lily Hughes and Mariana Castaneda, dancers and theater artists.) "They said that you don't have to do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable. But we did everything anyway. I chose the Street Theater, Dance and Movement track because they said there would be a lot of movement. I was afraid that we would really dance and I can't dance. But it was more movement than dance. It was more theater."

Brie emphasizes that the primary objective of Arts and Action is to train trainers in the effectiveness of creating art for specific organizing purposes. Johnny tells that art did help him to better understand. "I think using art has two effects. First it has an internal effect when you're working on something like first you're thinking about the subject, and then you're thinking about which movement you can use to express the subject and so on. And it also has an external effect with people seeing the performance or like a banner that catches much attention. It helps to highlight the message."

Another goal of Arts and Action is to create community for the trainers. In the October training there were 16 young adults from all over the country - California, Illinois, Michigan, Washington DC, New York and Maine. Since they are so spread out and given the prodigious size of the military in America, it is likely that a counter recruitment organizer might at times feel alone in their work. But after a weekend of collaborative creative experiences with a common goal, the trainers are renewed in their sense of being a part of a community and a movement. Brie describes, "They are re-inspired, reenergized and reinvigorated for their work."

Johnny concurs and illustrates: "The exercises I liked the best were the ones that created community with the group and brought us closer together. One was called *Small Dance*. You stand very close to your neighbor with your hips touching and you just stand still but you experience that your body is moving the whole time. Every body is moving all the time a bit, but you don't know this. Then when you connect together, you really feel it."

"Another exercise was called *Finger Push*. One person has closed eyes and the other person is leading with just one fin-

ger directing the other person to move an arm or the head, and you just make crazy movements. You have to follow the commands and trust that you don't fall or whatever. It's embarrassing, but then you see that no one is laughing at you. They are all doing the same crazy movements. I've been in many workshops before, martial arts workshops and so on, and I've never felt so close to the group. I've never felt so close to people who were strangers until just two days ago. It was really amazing. The sense of community was so important to me, as well as the message about military recruitment. You see, we don't have the same problems with military recruitment in Germany.

The army doesn't do any commercials. They send one notice and you can throw it away or whatever, but they don't call you at home. The army isn't really present in our daily life. If it was, the people would freak out. If the army would go to a school, it would be a real political scandal. I was so surprised when I learned that in America the army calls the home and if they speak to the parents, they act as if they really know the child by first name like "Hello, may I speak to Jessie." I was so surprised to learn that the recruitment officers actually come to their homes. I can't believe this."

Another exercise that Johnny appreciated was one that combined literary arts and movement. "We were given words and phrases like for instance: 'Duty, Honor, Country' or 'I am fighting for...' or 'The truth is...' and so on. We wrote a poem or an essay based on these words, and then we added some strong movements to the poem. It was very powerful."

Powerful - as the young voices must be that sing for peace and nonviolent justice among the peoples of the world.

For more information about the Nonviolent Youth Collective and upcoming Peacemaker Trainings, please contact Brie Philips at peacemakertraining@gmail.com or go to youth.forusa.org.

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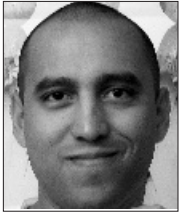
The Path of Fellowship

by Gilberto Villasenor III
NC Member

My commitment to the Fellowship of Reconciliation began before I became an official member by signing the Statement of Purpose. When I reflect on what inspired me to become involved in FOR, it's the people I met and the relationships I built that strengthened my commitment and helped to make my devotion to peace and justice more concrete.

I first learned about FOR from an old high school mentor named Joe Taylor. Joe was a campus minister at Loyola Academy, in Wilmette, Illinois and an advisor to Loyola's Amnesty International Chapter. He was and still is a member and contributor to FOR. When I was an undergraduate at the University of San Francisco, Joe and I would occasionally meet during my trips back home to Illinois. On one of those visits, Joe shared his copy of Fellowship with me. That planted a seed. I was impressed by FOR's take on different issues and I remember that I shared the magazine with friends in one of my politics classes when I returned to USF.

After I left the University of San Francisco in 2002, I stayed and looked for work in the Bay Area. In my search for jobs, I stopped by the offices of Global Exchange (a famous local nonprofit) and unwittingly ran into the offices of FOR's Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean. I asked John Lindsay-Poland whether there were any positions available and he told me that FOR was looking for people to join a project in Colombia. Although I didn't take him up on his initial offer, I joined the San Francisco office as a Freeman Intern in the fall of 2003. As an intern, I developed a traveling photography exhibit highlighting various peace initiatives in Colombia. I also learned a lot about the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó, an



obscure farming community in northwest Colombia that is forging a peaceful path in the country's civil war despite having been attacked by all sides in the conflict.

Inspired by what I learned as a Freeman intern, I decided to join FOR's human rights accompaniment project in the Peace Community in February 2006. I was honored to represent FOR in meetings with U.S. embassy officials, Colombian government and military officials, and representatives of international and Colombian NGOs. Physically accompanying Peace Community members to remote regions of the Colombian countryside, hearing their stories, and getting a small taste of their struggles and triumphs was a powerful experience for me. FOR has been lucky to have some incredibly talented and committed volunteers working in Colombia.

One of those amazing volunteers who I had the privilege of working with, Janice Gallagher, has recently joined the National Council. My friendship with her exemplifies the kind of relationships that have helped sustain my commitment to FOR.

Since returning from Colombia in February 2007, I started working at DePaul University's Study Abroad Program, promoting international education through presentations and one on one advising sessions with students. In spring of 2008, I brought John Lindsay-Poland to DePaul where he participated in a forum about Colombian trade and labor. This fall, FOR's "Drop Beats Not Bombs", a workshop and hip-hop tour with Colombian and U.S. conscientious objectors, will be stopping at DePaul.

I'm excited about being able to work with FOR through the National Council. I look forward to doing my part to help bring about FOR's "revolutionary vision of a beloved community."

Local FOR Activism for Western Washington

With local chapters in over 50 states, along with a focus on international and national peace and justice issues, FOR members are committed to addressing specific needs within their communities. To give you a sense of FOR's activism locally around the U.S., please read the following report from Ellen Finklestein of the Western Washington FOR (WWFOR).

Western Washington FOR continues to work to support war resistance and military families and to build opposition to ongoing wars. In fall 2007, WWFOR worked with ally organizations and filmmakers to promote the powerful documentary film, "Soldiers of Conscience," which illuminates deeply held beliefs about conscience and morality. It previewed in more than 20 congregations/communities and then showed commercially for a week in Seattle. Conscientious objector Aidan Delgado, who is featured in the film, also appeared at film showings.

We worked with allies to hold a Northwest regional demonstration opposing the ongoing occupation of Iraq in October 2007. WWFOR continued its work with IVAW and others in the May 2008 Northwest Winter Soldier hearing. This hearing drew more than 800 people and complemented the March Washington DC hearings.

WWFOR helped organize a tour in March of poet-activist David Smith-Ferri, whose book *Battlefields without Borders* focuses on the human cost of the invasion/occupation and the effort by Iraqi people to resist its traumatic effects.

WWFOR has joined with WSRCAT (Washington State Religious Campaign Against Torture) to highlight the need for education on this issue and to encourage action in local communities. We joined in a press conference in June to announce banners at more than 20 local congregations. WWFOR also works with Washington State Jobs with Justice, particularly around issues related to the impact of the war. We participated in the May 1 ILWU (International Longshore and Warehouse Union) action, which effectively shut down the ports along the West Coast, in opposition to the war.

We continue our support of GI Voice in its plans to open "Coffee Strong," a coffee house just outside of Fort Lewis this past fall.

WWFOR continues its commitment to empower young people with our highly successful summer Peace Activist Trainee program. The program offers high school students an opportunity to learn about nonviolence and social justice, gain community-organizing skills, and host a public event of their own.

The themes of our annual fall retreat in Lacey in November 2007 and our spring assembly in Seattle in April 2008 were respectively: "Resisting the War Machine," and "Living and Working Cooperatively." These two gatherings, plus the July 4th Seabeck regional conference, offer WWFOR members a chance to come together in community, learn, share, and gather ourselves for the work we continue to do in our communities and in the world.

FOR Chosen for Combined Federal Campaign

FOR was recently chosen to receive donations from the Combined Federal Campaign, the largest workplace fundraising drive. FOR is a part of the new Peace and Reconciliation category. If you are a federal employee please choose FOR, CFC number 12436.

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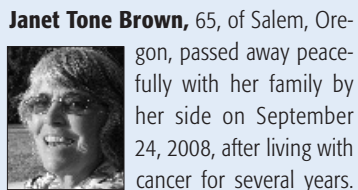
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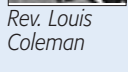
Janet Tone Brown

Janet Tone Brown, 65, of Salem, Oregon, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on September 24, 2008, after living with cancer for several years. Janet served as convener of the Oregon Fellowship of Reconciliation, and was a long-time member of FOR's National Council, including a term ending in 2007. In 1960, Brown entered the Order of Saint Benedict (OSB), taking the name Sister Benita. As a nun, Janet worked with children of migrant farm workers and earned a master's degree in anthropology. In 1969 she left the convent but kept her commitment to "care for the least of these, my children."

Janet was a Witness for Peace monitor on the border of Nicaragua and Honduras during the Contra-Sandinista conflict in Central America. She was jailed for civil disobedience while protesting at California's Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. She cosponsored the Hands & Words Are Not For Hurting Project, an educational project aimed at ending abuse and domestic violence in homes and schools. In her final months, Janet led a workshop at the Seaback Conference called "Living Well/ Dying Well. When asked what quote she would like to be remembered by, Janet offered, "Our task is to overcome the illusion of our separateness. We are one."

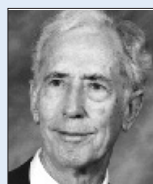
Stanley C. Bunce of New London, New Hampshire, a member of FOR since 1970, died April 4, 2008. Stanley was born August 21, 1917, in Bayonne, NJ. He received his bachelor's degree in Chemistry, a master's in Education and his doctorate in Organic Chemistry. His professional career included authoring two college Chemistry textbooks, teaching at Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute for 38 years; and, respectively, serving as Associate Chairman of the Chemistry Dept. and the Director of the National Science Foundation Summer Institute for Chemistry. He volunteered his time and expertise as a member of several professional chemistry and scientific organizations. He is survived by his wife, three children, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Rev. Louis Coleman, a member of FOR since 1995, died July 12, 2008 in Louisville, Kentucky. Rev. Coleman was a tireless, civil rights activist. Over the years, he had been arrested more than 30 times for activities related to civil disobedience. In 1996, he was the recipient of FOR's Martin Luther King, Jr. award. In 2000, he was inducted into the Kentucky Civil Rights Hall of Fame and credited with being instrumental in exposing the lack of black coaches in Kentucky high school sports. Rev. Coleman is survived by his wife, three children, a sister and several grandchildren.



Rev. Louis Coleman

Rev. Dan B. Genung, a member of FOR since 1939, died August 12, 2008. Rev. Genung was the founder of the All Peoples Christian Center in South Central Los Angeles. In 1942, Dan and his wife, Frances led All Peoples Christian Church in creating outreach to Asian, Latino and black communities just south of downtown L.A. Thanks to All Peoples' organizing efforts, Japanese residents were returned from their internment during World War II to find their homes protected and preserved. Following 14 years of service at All Peoples, Rev. Genung served for 14 years as pastor of the Mt. Hollywood Congregational Church in Los Angeles. He is survived by his wife, four children, ten grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and four great-great-grandchildren.



Rev. Dan B. Genung

Anita Ethel Martin Gore of Memphis Tennessee died on June 5, 2008. Mrs. Gore had been a member of FOR since 1978.

Josephine Magee Lavelly, 89, a member of FOR since 1941, died peacefully in Walpole, MA on August 24, 2008. Josephine earned her B.A. from Cornell College, and her Masters in Religious Education from the Boston University School of Theology. In 1952, she became Director of Religious Education at First Congregational Church in Newton Center. In 1960, she began a second career as a high school teacher which spanned 25 years. During a sabbatical in 1969-70, she taught English as a second language in Kyoto, Japan. Josephine was an active member of the United Parish of Auburn-

dale and later at The United Church of Walpole. "JoMo", as she was called by her grandchildren, was a constant advocate for world peace, human and civil rights, and equal rights for women. Josephine was predeceased by her husband, John Hillman. She is survived by a sister, four children, six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Betty McLaughlin of Columbus, Ohio, a member of FOR since 1941, died on May 14, 2008.

Ann Elizabeth Newbold, 85, a committed peace activist, botanist and member of FOR since 1960, died on July 14, 2008. Mrs. Newbold's interest in peace and social justice led her to become a Quaker and take an active approach to her beliefs in pacifism. During the Viet Nam War, she worked as a draft counselor and co-founded the Pottstown Peace Committee. In the 1950's, Mrs. Newbold and her husband, the late Albert G. Newbold, designed and built an environmentally friendly home in Lima. At that time, Mrs. Newbold also advocated for nuclear disarmament and racial equality. Toward the end of the Viet Nam War, Mrs. Newbold's interest in botany grew. She transformed 10 acres of land in Pennsylvania into a wildflower preserve and taught wildflower identification at the Morris Arboretum, the Barnes Foundation and the University of Pennsylvania. After Albert's death, Mrs. Newbold eventually met and fell in love with Heinrich Zoller, a retired professor of botany from the University of Basel in Switzerland. They shared a love of flowers and had a deep commitment to each other for nearly two decades. Along with Heinrich Zoller, Ann is survived by one brother, three children and three grandchildren.



Ann Newbold

Helen C. Nocke of Denver, Colorado, a Quaker and member of FOR since 1986, died on July 31, 2008. She was born in Tokyo, Japan on April 8, 1917. Predeceased by her husband, Carl F. Nocke, Helen is survived by her sister and one son.

Dorothy Nyland of Cleveland, Ohio, a member of FOR since 1934, died on April 4, 2008. Dorothy was the oldest member of Maple Grove United Methodist Church and recipient of Boston Univer-

sity's Distinguished Alumna award. As the associate secretary of the Cleveland Church Federation, she was responsible for Religious Education in 350 protestant churches. During her years of service, she visited missions' projects in China, Japan, Korea, Manchuria and the Philippines. During the 1940s, she once spent a week with Dr. Albert Schweitzer at his African hospital. After retirement, her concern for the world church led her to South America, China, the Holy Land, Russia and Europe.

William P. Roberts of Marleborough, Massachusetts, a member of FOR since 1998, died March 23, 2008. Born in Shanghai in 1922 of missionary parents, Bill spent a year at Yale University, then joined David Dellinger and others at what they called the Newark Ashram. His refusal to register for Selective Service brought a three-year sentence that he served in two stretches at federal prisons in Ashland, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania and Danbury, Connecticut. A brilliant mathematician, musician and mystic, while in prison in Lewisburg, Bill fashioned a papier-mâché flute using wet newspapers and leftover oatmeal which he wrapped around a broom handle. Shortly after leaving prison, Bill entered a Trappist monastery and remained there for fourteen years. Upon leaving the monastery, he met and married Maria, an artist and poet. Professionally, he worked in a Boston insurance company and later joined an international accounting firm in Philadelphia. After retirement, he and Maria moved to Nantucket where he pursued his interests in tennis, golf, music, and conservation and computer graphics.

Eleanor Robbins of Laurel, Maryland, a member of FOR since 1960, died on February 16, 2008.

Martin Robbins of Cleveland, OH, a long-time supporter of FOR died in San Francisco, CA on February 22, 2008. Born in Cleveland to Russian-Jewish immigrants, Marty served in WWII, graduated from Boston University, and returned to Cleveland where he worked as a union machinist. He moved to Oakland in 1981 after retiring and became active in the Gray Panthers, Lake Merritt Senior Dancers, Humanist Fellowship, and many other good causes. He is survived



Martin Robbins

by three daughters, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Florence Giffin Tatum, 93, a member of FOR since 1943, died in Ellicott City, Maryland on June 27, 2007. Florence was a member of Haddonfield Friends Meeting for over forty years. As a Quaker, she supported racial integration in Berea, Kentucky, marched on the Pentagon against nuclear weapons, picketed the White House during the Viet Nam War, and visited women prisoners at the Burlington County Jail. For the past fifteen years, Florence campaigned to rid the world of landmines. She is a graduate from the University of Illinois. In 1938, she married Roscoe R. Giffin, Jr. a sociology professor with whom she had four children. Following Roscoe's death, Florence married Lyle E. Tatum in 1965, gaining two step-children. She and Lyle traveled to many areas of the world to pursue peace and other Friends' activities. Florence is survived by two brothers, six children, sixteen grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren.



Florence Tatum

Margaret H. Ward of Springfield, VA, a member of FOR since 2006, died February 28, 2008.

Vada Gladys Wooley, 83, of Regina, Saskatchewan died on September 29, 2008. Ms. Wooley was a long time supporter of FOR. Predeceased by her husband, Woodrow, in 1986, Vada is survived by two children and four granddaughters.

Gordon Zahn, internationally known peace activist, scholar, sociologist and author, died December 9, 2007 outside of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. A founder of Pax Christi USA, Gordon had been a member of FOR since 1965. In 1944, after declaring his conscientious objector status, he carried out his service by working in New Hampshire fighting forest fires. He completed his undergraduate work at St. Thomas College and received his master's and doctoral degrees at Catholic University of America. As an educator, Gordon taught at both Loyola University in Chicago, and the University of Massachusetts-Boston. In 1992, the St. Benedict the Moor parish created an award in Gordon's name given each year to a high school student who contributed to peace.

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Witness

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Fellowship of Reconciliation

521 N. Broadway P.O. Box 271
Nyack, NY 10960
Telephone: 845-358-4601
Fax: 845-358-4924
Web site: www.forusa.org
Blog: www.FORpeace.net
e-mail: for@forusa.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

December 7: Creative Response to Conflict's Holiday Party 4:00 at Shadowcliff, 521 N. Broadway Nyack, NY www.crc-global.org

December 12 – 14: UFPJ Fourth Annual Assembly Wyndham O'Hare Hotel outside Chicago. The United for Peace & Justice Annual Assembly.

December 12 – 14: War: Trauma or Transformation KirkrIDGE Retreat & Study Center, Bangor PA <http://www.kirkrIDGE.org/programs/kirkrIDGE-programs/>

December 19: Iraq Moratorium The moratorium began on September 21 and continues on the third Friday of every month. Join with millions to:

- Wear and distribute black ribbons and armbands
- Buy no gas on Moratorium days
- Pressure politicians and the media
- Hold vigils, pickets, rallies, and teach-ins
- Hold special religious services
- Coordinate events in music, art, and culture
- Host film showings, talks, and educational events
- Organize student actions: Teach-ins, school closings, etc.

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

December 21: FOR's Solstice Celebration 1:00 – 5:00 at Shadowcliff, 521 N. Broadway,

Nyack, NY. FOR invites friends & neighbors to enjoy food, music, conversation & community at national headquarters in celebration of the end of year holiday season. www.forusa.org.

JANUARY

January 13 – 17, 2009: Heeding God's Call: A Gathering on Peace Philadelphia A joint effort of the Church of the Brethren, Mennonite Church USA and the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

<http://peacegathering2009.org/>

January 16: Iraq Moratorium <http://www.iraqmoratorium.org/>

January 20: Presidential Inauguration Day

January 22 – 25: National Conference to Abolish the Death Penalty, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. <http://www.ncadp.org/index.cfm?content>

FEBRUARY

February 11-16: Not Your Soldier Organizer Training Nyack, NY Contact: Brie Phillips 651.757.5353 & peacemakertraining@gmail.com

February 20: Iraq Moratorium <http://www.iraqmoratorium.org/>

MARCH

March 13 – 16: Ecumenical Advocacy Days Washington, DC: Hilton Alexandria Mark Center <http://www.advocacydays.org/>

March 20: Iraq Moratorium <http://www.iraqmoratorium.org/>

March 27 – April 6: Resisting Militarism Through Creative Action: Youth Arts & Action Delegation to Colombia Bogota & Medellin, Colombia Contact: Liza Smith: 510.763.1403 & liza@igc.org

APRIL

April 16 – 18: The Politics of Love Conference: Postmodernism, Culture & Religion Syracuse University <http://pcr.syr.edu/> A constellation of internationally prominent theorists—philosophers, theologians and psychoanalysts—will gather to discuss the question of whether the concept of love can be re-described as a political concept. Is love necessarily a private matter or does it also have a public meaning? Can love become part of a political project? In addition to an ethics or religion of love, can there be a politics of love?

April 17: Iraq Moratorium <http://www.iraqmoratorium.org/>

May 15: Iraq Moratorium

**For more information on Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR)-sponsored programs, visit the FOR Web site: www.forusa.org.*

A Safe and Necessary Investment

“What does the \$700 billion dollar bailout do for me?” What happens to my investments? The way things are going, how can I continue to support FOR?

If you have a traditional or a Roth IRA and are 70 or older, you can still make a safe and much needed investment to the Fellowship of Reconciliation. The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 includes an IRA Rollover provision—HR 1424. The Rollover is retroactive and

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There are some other stipulations: in order for contributions to be exempt from taxes, they must be a direct gift to a tax-exempt 501c3 organization. Rollovers to a planned gift, i.e., a gift annuity or a charitable remainder trust do not qualify.

It's important that donors

have their financial advisors check their state's specific state and local tax laws, as some IRA rollovers may be still be considered taxable income. To take advantage of this financial rescue package for 2008, you must make your contributions BEFORE December 31, 2008.

For more information, contact Jonette O'Kelley Miller, jmiller@forusa.org, or Bill Winston, bwinston@forusa.org, or call 845.358.4601.

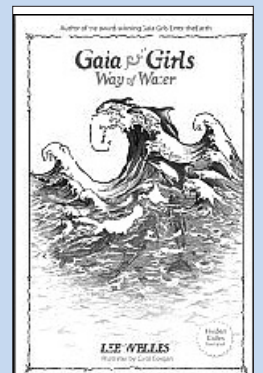
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It's never too late to buy gifts from the FOR Bookstore! We sell peace and justice-centered cards and items, calendars, music CDs, and DVDs, and many more unique items that are great for the holidays or any special time of year.

New item: FOR apron – Give the gourmand/chef in your life your best gift: a bright, royal blue apron with our famous FOR logo. It has an adjustable neck and 2 big pockets for all his/her favorite recipes and tools of the trade!



Featured New Books



Gaia Girls: Way of Water
by award winning author Lee Welles
Item #BGGW \$12.95



The Carbon-Free Home
by Stephen and Rebekah Hren
Item# BCARFH \$35.00

Fellowship of Reconciliation Survey

We are committed to supporting our members, local chapters, peace fellowships and other affiliated groups. We want to hear from you. Please take time to complete this survey. A more comprehensive version is available online at www.forusa.org / www.FORpeace.net. We look forward to hearing from you and your suggestions.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____

e-mail address: _____

Gender: Male Female

Age (range): 15-25 25-40 40-49 50-65 65-75 75+

Sexual Orientation: Straight GLBT

Ethnicity: White
 Black
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 Other _____

Spiritual Affiliation: _____ None: _____

Are you a member of a local FOR chapter?: Yes No

If so, Name: _____

City _____ State _____

Advocacy interests (check all that apply): Peace Anti-War

Nonviolent Conflict Resolution Social/Economic Justice Racism

Environment Other _____

Do you visit our website / blog (www.forusa.org / www.FORpeace.net)? Yes No

If so, how often? Daily Weekly Monthly Quarterly

Do you use e-mail? Yes No

Do you like to receive notices via e-mail? Yes No

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Observations/Suggestions:

We look forward to your thoughts. Thank you for participating in our survey.