

Nonviolent Peaceforce Local Chapter Newsletter December 2005- January 2006

Greetings, NP Chapters and friends,

We are in the thick of exciting and fruitful activity. The U.S. Local Chapters have come together to form the U.S. NP Chapters Association (USNPCA), and have applied for official NP Member Organization status. A committee from the Association has been formed to help implement the North American Nonviolent Conflict Intervention training program. And the U.S. Chapters are working hard to plan a gathering in June. All this, and still you managed to find the time to send your latest news and greetings. Thank you for creating this newsletter, and thanks to those who care enough to read it too!

If you can spare just a bit more time, we also have a request from Tamra Falk, NP Office Manager. She is asking for our help to make sure the NP database is complete. Please send her a list of all your chapter members (names, addresses, emails). If a member doesn't wish to receive mail, simply include a request for "no mail" or "limited mail." Email to: tfalk@nonviolentpeaceforce.

Peaceful energy to all,
Faith Edman – Tucson AZ USA
Local Chapter newsletter coordinator
peaceforce_agnews@yahoo.com

Missive from Minneapolis (3/1/06)

We have been on overload these past two weeks with the NP directors meeting that just ended. Those who came for this event are:

- Rachel Julian, Fundraising director who lives in England
- Christine Schweitzer, Program Director, from Germany
- Alvero Ramirez Durini, Latin America Coordinator as well as contact for our other regional coordinators
- David Hartsough, Director of Special Projects, from San Francisco
- Nick Mele, Communications Director from Bellingham, WA.
- David Grant, Strategic Outreach Director, from Washington, DC.

Our office also had the pleasure of having Mary Tarczynski, Communications Coordinator from San Francisco work with us for a few days on fundraising among other items, and Ellen Furnari, fresh from Sri Lanka joined us.

We are so fortunate to have this wonderful couple, Eleanor & Joan Yackel, who have a hospitality house they donate for our use, and Amanda Cross,

Mel Duncan's assistant, who is as good a cook as she is a note taker.

In this office everyone pitches in to help with airport pick-up, grocery shopping, materials, cleaning,

anything that is needed to make the time fruitful for those coming for the meeting. And we have fun too. This is a group of enthusiastic, visionary people with energy that is contagious. We will not know of all the decisions for a time, when they are all available I'll share highlights with you.

The meetings ended Tuesday afternoon, the 28th, in time for several to join us for our Nonviolent Peaceforce Carnival Dinner-Dance, & Silent Auction in the evening. This event was so worth the effort as we had close to 400 people attend, and 81 articles donated for the Auction. We rely on our Local Chapter for so much of the help. The artists design the invitations and table decorations, including 50 colorful candles made by LC, Bud Dixon. Others solicit desert donations, write nametags, and send out mailings among many other works of good! So much of the work in this office is donated by LC members. We have four Catholic nuns, St. Joseph sisters, who are in the office a day or two per week lending their time. We are so grateful, and we know they are not helping the office as much as they are working for the vision.

I look around our office today and see very dear and very tired people who are all at their desks ready to move on to the next piece of the vision, and I thank the powers that be for the privilege of being a part of this wonderful world-wide community of Nonviolent Peaceforce. I hope you feel the same!!

Mary Lou, & Natalie Too!

NP's programs are growing exponentially in 2006!

Hello Chapter Friends from the Major Gifts Department,

You have been so helpful to me and NP's major gifts team, thank you so much. NP's Major Gifts Department continues to grow in efficiency and effectiveness because NP has an irresistible and compelling message. In 2006 our team is designing Giving Levels for NP donors. Giving Levels will include varying benefits of: education opportunities, naming recognition, and token NP product thank you gifts. Our Giving Levels will include opportunities for donors of all economic classes and income levels to make high commitments to NP through your giving according to your means. If you would like to hear my draft ideas and give us feedback, please don't hesitate to contact me over the next 3 months, eshatz@nonviolentpeaceforce.org or (612) 871-0005.

In addition, all NP's USA-based fundraising folks are considering how to focus our outreach, events, fundraising parties and education programs to areas of highest partnership potential. This may include areas with NP chapters, Member Organizations, and Advocates. Let's get strong in these geographic regions, and from here help each other broaden into new underserved regions.

On behalf of our entire major gifts department including: staff Sue Ann Martinson and Tamra Falk; key volunteers Carolyn Schurr, John Davenport, Marty Nitzberg, Cynthia Embree-Lavoie; Advocate Team committee chairs Helena Halperin, Jim Phoenix and Diane Dunn.; and all our Advocate Team, thank you for your great work and eager engagement and loving support.

Warmly,
Erika Shatz, Major Gifts Officer-USA,
eshatz@nonviolentpeaceforce.org

Help for speakers arrives March 13

From Mary Tarczynski, U.S. Communications Coordinator: Speaker resources are now complete and will be available from the Minneapolis office after March 13. You can send a request for the Speakers Guide, an NP Power Point presentation, and/or a poster to Mary Lou Ott at (mott@nonviolentpeaceforce.org). These resources will also be available on the new NP website once it's finished.

“Peace Pilgrim of the Year”

Pat Keefe, NP's Outreach Coordinator, was named “Peace Pilgrim of the Year” by the Christmas Peace Pilgrimage this past December.

The Christmas Peace Pilgrimage has organized a 10-mile Peace Walk each year since 1960. This year the organization invited Pat to be the main speaker for the event, which culminated in the award. Pat says, “I ordinarily don't care for mementos but this one reminds me of all the great people I met on the walk and in the preliminary and ending events as well.” You can reach Pat at pkeefe@nonviolentpeaceforce.org

Philadelphia Area May Host National Chapters

We met in Feb. 7 in Philadelphia and relished the thought that all the depth of understanding of the Peaceforce and enthusiasm about supporting NP would reach more of our members if we met near here. But looking at the practicalities, we will need a few more days of emails and calls to decide if we can offer to be the host. *(Since this was originally sent, the Philadelphia chapter found space at the Tenemos Retreat Center and it is now up the Chapter Association to decide if it will meet there.)*

Meanwhile we agreed to continue varying the location of our local chapter meetings and will explore meeting in the Kennett Square area in April. One of our members shared the energization that came from having good one-to-one discussions about NP with someone interested who could share what each could do to help NP.

- Clarkson Palmer, ctpalmer@aol.com

Bay Area Bursts into Committees

The NP Bay Area chapter spent 2005 getting organized into committees. The task for 2006 is to more fully staff the committees and further implement their programs.

The Committees are:

Fundraising - responsible for planning and coordinating fundraising activities. 80% of the proceeds go to NP International, 20% are retained by the local chapter to cover minor operating expenses (donations for meeting space, tabling fees, web hosting, etc). NPBA is looking for another chapter to partner in developing a "Pledge for Peace" fundraiser. Contact Gilda Bettencourt at gbettencourt@nonviolentpeaceforce.org, 1-415-751-0302 if you are interested in developing this idea which would include tools for gaining pledges similar to walkathons, marathons, and similar fundraisers.

Outreach - responsible for planning and publicizing quarterly meetings and cultivating/maintaining the list of interested Bay Area volunteers.

Speaking - responsible for becoming familiar with NP speaking materials, rehearsing, and identifying, coordinating, and speaking to community groups.

Tabling - responsible for identifying local events for tabling, maintaining a supply of tabling materials, and coordinating volunteers to staff the information tables.

Training - responsible for organizing one-day general public nonviolent conflict intervention training sessions. Many on this committee have previous training experience and will participate in the North America "Train the Trainer" Regional Trainings planned for later this year to become certified as North American trainers for NP.

We also have a volunteer treasurer and webmaster and have recently launched a "book club/study group" as an outreach and community building program. The first book will be "Cultures of Peace" by Elise Boulding. The Bay Area chapter is planning a quarterly meeting in April featuring speaker(s) who volunteered as election monitors in Palestine and hopes to host an FTM from Sri Lanka at a fall meeting.

--Mary Tarczynski
mtarczynski@nonviolentpeaceforce.org

Greater Boston Reaches Out...

On April 22nd, we are co-sponsoring with the Peace Abbey an Earth Day memorial and celebration of the lives of two conscientious objectors, Wally Nelson and Chuck Mathieu, with peace prayers, remembrances and singing. We plan to do tabling at some local peace fairs and other events as the weather gets warmer. We are grappling with the best ways to connect with inner-city organizations in a way that is useful to them and to NP.

David Arond, a member of our steering committee, went to Bethlehem in December to a workshop on "Palestinian Nonviolent Resistance" and presented 2 workshops on NP approaches and mindfulness practice. His co-presenters, an Israeli Jewish woman and a Palestinian woman, were illegally on this side of the "apartheid wall" and came at great risk. The workshops were well received, and valuable connections for NP were made.

We continue to read and view works of nonviolence (currently still studying Gene Sharp's Waging Nonviolent Struggle) and having group discussions in order to educate ourselves better.

--Sherry Zitter, sherryzitter.org

...And Looks at Larger Issues

Severyn Bruyn spoke to the Boston Area Chapter about the importance of looking at the larger issues in a civil society such as the structures of violence and nonviolence. He is responsible for linking the Chapter to other area groups and proposed to the Coalition for a Strong United Nations and the Newton Dialogues on Peace and War that we all advance a policy on developing an international law, a global peaceforce, and a system of regional world courts. We have begun to take action by talking with state representatives and senators.

-Severyn Bruyn bruyn@rcn.com

In Touch: Some of you will remember Jen Sage. Jen is an actress in New York City, and was an early NP supporter. She has attended the local chapter gatherings in St. Paul, and at the last one offered us an inspiring performance of a scene from the play "Rose", about a holocaust survivor. Jen is now studying to be a trainer in Nonviolent Communication. She wrote us, "This path is the one I was seeking when I first discovered NP and I am happy I am on it now. Hopefully I can serve NP from this perspective when it all comes together." You can reach Jen at Rjsage3@aol.com

Tucson Chapter Blooms in the Desert

January 2006 marked the beginning of NP Tucson. There are only four of us, but we agreed to let our chapter grow organically. And we are large in commitment. Together we are learning about the NP and exploring ideas for action. Our focus for now is: to table at the Tucson Peace Fair on February 25; to become "experts" on the NP; to be a part of the NCI training program; to spread the word about NP in mainstream venues; to learn about the history of nonviolent action and third party nonviolent intervention; and to have fun while we're doing all this. Our next meeting is March 23.

--Faith Edman,
nonviolent_peaceforce_tucson@yahoo.com

Hampton Roads in Season of Nonviolence

Currently, we are in our Season for Nonviolence as well as several fastings and vigils with the Catholic workers for the Season of Our Discontent.

This note is submitted by Susan Andrus, a member of the Hampton Roads Network for Nonviolence: On Monday, January 30, 2006, on an unseasonably warm evening, forty people gathered at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park in Norfolk, Virginia to open the Season for Nonviolence. The evening began and ended with singing songs of hope and peace intermingled with prayers and poems related to the Season. Members and clergy from various religious communities including Baptist, Buddhist, Catholic, Episcopal, Jewish, Independent, Quaker, and Sikh spoke briefly about their hopes for peace and justice from their own spiritual perspective. The overriding theme of their words centered on seeing the good in every person and finding the strength to relate to all people peacefully.

-- Alexandra Kedrock, bakedrock@aol.com

NP San Diego Booked Up

Jan. 15, 2006 - NP presentation by 5 members NPSD, St. Paul's Manor, SD., 21 attenders.

Jan. 21 - NP presentation by 5 members NPSD at the home of Gloria Joyce & Ed Flowers, 4 couples attended.

Feb. 1 - Joan Bernstein, on vacation in San Diego, came for a visit with 4 NPSD members, home of Gloria & Ed.

Feb. 5, - NP presentation by Nick Mele & Linda Dunn, with Ed & Gloria, NPSD, in Dexter Hall, Pilgrim Place in City of Claremont, CA. About 37 attenders; 22 signed up for Rumors of Peace, 6 signed up to form a NP Local Chapter in Claremont.

FUTURE PLANS:

Feb. 11, 4 NPSD members will staff a NP table at the Episcopalian Diocese of San Diego Convention, St. Dunstan's Church patio, 6:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Feb. 12, St. David's Episcopal Church, SD, 6 NPSD members will present NP in a Forum, between morning worship services, 9:30-10:25 a.m.

Feb. 19, 5 NPSD members will staff a NP table at St. David's Episcopal Church Ministry Fair, after both morning worship services: 9:00 & 11:45 a.m.

March, No event planned.

April 8, NP presentation by Nick Mele & 6 NPSD members, La Jolla & San Diego Friends Meetings' joint potluck dinner, about 5:30 p.m. +.

April 9, NP Speakers' Training by Nick Mele for NPSD, probably afternoon, probably at home of Gloria & Ed.

April 10, possible early visit with Nick Mele to Joan Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice on campus of University of San Diego (USD), or other site.

April 10, NP presentation by Nick M. at University of California San Diego (UCSD) Cultural Society, 7:00 p.m., probably 6 NPSD members.

All for now. Peace,
Ed & Gloria
Edward Flowers - ed@npsand.org

And In The End...

March 8 is International Women's Day. Enjoy your celebrations, whether you're marching in a crowd, or honoring with quiet thoughts. And so we continue on, to "work for bread and peace" for all.