

## U.S. Nonviolent Peaceforce Local Chapters Association Newsletter Spring 2007

<http://usnpca.org>

### Celebrate at the 2007 U.S. Nonviolent Peaceforce Chapters Association Conference!

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual U.S. NP Chapters Association Conference will be held June 21-24, 2007 at the Burlington Conference Center in Burlington, NJ. The conference is being organized and hosted by the NP Philadelphia Area Chapter, the Bucks County Nonviolent Peaceforce and the newly formed Haverford Chapter. We are very grateful to these folks for taking on this big organizing task, especially as our usual meeting place in St. Paul was not available this year.

Our gathering will be inspirational, educational, and energizing, celebrating the Peaceforce and the first birthday of our Chapters Association. Mel Duncan and other NP staffers are going to participate, and we hope you will too.

You should have received an invitation and registration form by email already. Additional info is being sent out by regular mail. You can also download the registration form at <http://usnpca.org> -- click on "Key Events and Dates." If you have questions about the conference, please email Toby Riley at [TobyRiley@quaker.org](mailto:TobyRiley@quaker.org) or call 609-654-3661.

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### USNPCA sending two delegates to the NP International Assembly

Five Chapter members applied to represent USNPCA at the 2007 NP International Assembly in Nairobi this September. After a review of the applications, the Chapters selected Carol Miller of Bucks County PA and Faith Edman of Tucson AZ as representatives, with Janelle Van Eynde of Western Washington as the alternate. At the USNPCA Conference in June, the Chapters will discuss the NP Strategic Plan and other issues to help prepare the representatives for the International Assembly.

### It's only an international assembly if everyone can get there!

We are inviting all Chapters to join the effort to ensure that all Member Organizations of Nonviolent Peaceforce are represented at the 2007 International Assembly.

The average cost of airfare will be \$1,500, and food and housing will cost almost \$400. At least half of the Member Organizations' representatives live in areas of poverty and/or conflict, making it a financial challenge for them to attend. This includes those living in Africa. Airfare between countries on the African continent is nearly as expensive as airfare to Kenya from other continents.

The USNPCA coordinating committee, in conjunction with Mary Lou Ott, would like to propose a fundraising opportunity for our Local Chapters. We will be able to discuss this more at our summer conference, but here is the request:

1. Raise enough money to cover the cost of sending one USNPCA representative to Nairobi
2. Raise enough money to cover the cost of sending one representative from an MO in the Global South to Nairobi
3. If possible, raise additional funds for the 2<sup>nd</sup> USNPCA attendee, and for more Global South representatives.

**These donations are tax-deductible and a donor can note on the check how they'd like it to be used:** "IA" if for general NP International Assembly expenses; "Global South MO" for their travel; Or "USNPCA" to support our representatives. You can also note if you want to contribute specifically for Carol or Faith. Send contributions to Nonviolent Peaceforce, 425 Oak Grove Street Minneapolis, MN 55403.

Have ideas for fundraising? Please email them to [usnpca@yahoo.com](mailto:usnpca@yahoo.com), and we'll share them with everyone.

## Help Bring Peaceforce Into Schools!

Throughout the school year many students across the U.S. are learning about Gandhi and his nonviolent campaign in India- but are the same students learning about the amazing actualization of Gandhi's dream to create a "Shanti Sena" or Peace Army? We, the Bucks County Chapter of the NVPF, think they should be! This is why we are establishing a Task Force on Integrating the NVPF into the Public School Curriculum. The goal of the Task Force will be to create an educational unit on the NVPF that would be suitable for use by middle and high school social studies and history educators. The unit would be presented to educators in a lesson plan format, including learning objectives for students, a teacher's guide, and an explanation of how the lessons meet required state content standards for social studies. The result of the Task Force's work will be a quality, non-compromising educational unit about the NVPF that will be acceptable and useful in mainstream public educational settings. We would like to meet monthly by conference call to begin this project. If you have experience in teaching, curriculum development or activism/training and you are interested in contributing to this exciting project, please contact Christa Tinari, Educational Consultant, at [ctinari@peacepraxis.com](mailto:ctinari@peacepraxis.com) or 215-345-4742 (EST). [www.peacepraxis.com](http://www.peacepraxis.com)

## Update from Speakers Bureau Committee

The members of USNPCA's Speakers Bureau have begun the process of updating the Speakers Guide, a great resource and tool for giving NP related presentations. Every 6 months, we will be posting updated versions to include the most recent current events, activities, Field Team stories, and more. The Speakers Guide is currently available for download from the USNPCA website under the "Resources" tab, by clicking on "North America Outreach Tools" and then "NP Speakers Guide". Please check to see that you have the most recent version when preparing for a speaking engagement. Suggestions for editing the Speakers Guide can be sent to Veronika Safarova at [vsafarov@berkeley.edu](mailto:vsafarov@berkeley.edu)

## Bucks County (PA) Goals Glow

With the advent of the New Year our chapter members in Bucks County began taking on personal goals for the Nonviolent Peaceforce. In recent meetings we have spoken of individual goals we are setting for ourselves to support our effort with the Peaceforce. My goal is to recruit 10 trainers for Nonviolent Conflict Intervention within the mid-Atlantic region. I find it empowering to state my goal when I am speaking to someone who might enlist as a trainer for NP.

Meanwhile, we are also planning to raise some money to help send a representative to the International Assembly of Nonviolent Peaceforce in Kenya in September. This would be for a representative to come from the global south - someone who would otherwise be unable to participate due to economic constraints.

Three of our members have fundraising goals. One goal is regarding the need for funds to send representatives from the global south to the International Assembly (this is because she feels it supports the democratic nature of NP which she is excited about); another, for Peace Bonds. Yet another has committed to finding 3 new major donors for NP this year.

Any goal that supports the growth of the Nonviolent Peaceforce – so much needed to counter the effects of violence in our world today - is appreciated. The idea of taking on a small (or large) goal for NP is a growing idea.

Just last night at our chapter meeting we heard from someone about another goal. She said her personal commitment to the NP is to work on (or be part of an effort) developing an educational unit based on the NP that can be used by social studies educators in high school classrooms and then to ensure the unit is taught in classrooms throughout Bucks County.

Even if someone does not "go public" with their goal, their efforts on behalf of the Nonviolent Peaceforce will make a difference so we are asking everyone to think of something they would like to do. --Carol Miller, [camil888@verizon.net](mailto:camil888@verizon.net)

## Greater Boston Chapter Boomingly Busy

The Greater Boston chapter (NPGB) is going strong! We had a fascinating brunch with David Grant, NP Strategic Relations Director in December at Helena's home, and learned a lot about the inner workings of NP. Our Bob Fitch event drew a good crowd of over 80 people, many new, and raised over \$1200. We have had a speaker on Alternatives to Violence, a wonderful prison program. We continue to table and will do so at an upcoming peace fair in March. One of our members helped us develop a large bin of tabling materials which we keep outside Severyn's home in a central location so anyone can come by to pick it up when needed, along with a light aluminum table and a folding stool. Ask us for the list of materials therein. We are slowly working on finding trainer-trainees for a nonviolent conflict intervention training in the Boston area.

### A few creative fundraising ideas:

Church services: In January, Sherry and David went to a small UU church which asked us to conduct the service and lead the music for its MLKing day service. We were paid \$175, which went directly to NP, and then raised a collection of \$50 during coffee hour and left a Peace Bond which will hang in the Church and promote our work. The UU has chosen peace & justice for its "Congregational Study/Action Issue" during the next 3 years, and any UU Social Action committee might invite NP as part of that work.

Imaging workshops: In February, we were invited to lead an imaging workshop for a community farms group that is getting off the ground and wanted to use the imaging work of Elise Boulding to envision its future (rather than a world without war). I developed a brief model that could be done in 90 mins. with an advance imaging exercise emailed to committee members. After the presentation, we passed the hat and raised almost \$100 in donations in lieu of an honorarium! Feel free to ask about this model if you want to promote it in your community as a way to spread the word about NP (and raise funds) with local community groups.

**Premier of Nonviolence Musical:** One of our members, Severyn Bruyn, has recently completed a

musical about violence and nonviolence which is truly transformational! We had the privilege at our February meeting to do the first reading of this musical. It will be a delight to see how it develops and find ways to promote it in the Boston area for the benefit of NP. --Sherry Zitter  
[sherry@sherryzitter.org](mailto:sherry@sherryzitter.org)

## Western Washington Reports!

It's been awhile since the Western Washington chapter (WWNP) has checked in, so I hope to catch you up with what's been going on in our area.

December was mostly taken up in holding the Season of Peace fund raising dinner at Café Flora, Seattle's premier vegetarian restaurant. It was a good event, although our attendance was lower than hoped because of the threat of snow storms (weather that Seattle residents are never prepared for). We also went to holiday crafts fairs and to the Fellowship of Reconciliation holiday party with a table for selling Peace Bonds. Some of those, especially those earlier in the season, were quite successful (others less so).

In January we held our first all day planning event. Twelve people came together to discuss what we'd done during the past year, the strengths and weaknesses of chapter activities, and the opportunities that would be our priorities in 2007. We decided to resume having monthly meetings/presentations for the public, to put more effort into offering Nonviolent Conflict Intervention trainings, and to reorganize our fund raising strategies. Later in January we provided information about NP at Seattle's main gathering to celebrate Martin Luther King Day.

In February we began our new series of monthly meeting with a presentation at a centrally located library on "The Basics of Legal Observation". This two hour presentation provided some helpful insights in what to look for and record when serving as a legal observer to political protests. Our presentation in March was on "Mediating the Construction of Knowledge – Resolving Conflicts in the Development of Wikipedia Articles about the Sri Lankan Conflict". In April our presentation will be a practice session for using Nonviolent Communication with people you strongly disagree with.

This month we are co-sponsors of workshops by Dr. Marshall Rosenberg, founder of Nonviolent Communication. A private donor is providing funds through the Western Washington chapter to support scholarships specifically for people of color to attend Dr. Rosenberg's workshops.

Coming up in the next few weeks we will be giving a presentation about the Nonviolent Peaceforce at the Center for Spiritual Living and we will host a table of NP information at a gathering of educators who will be reviewing curriculum materials developed by Legacies of War and by Voices in Wartime. Phil Van Eynde and Bob Edgerton are organizing a wine auction to raise funds for NP. Others are working to develop a training for trainers for the Nonviolent Conflict Intervention curriculum. In June we will be making a presentation about NP to the national convention of the American Humanist Association in Portland, OR.

On an on-going basis we maintain a local e-mail list of 400. We send out information about the Nonviolent Peaceforce, notices of WWNP activities, and listings of local events on peace and nonviolence organized by other community groups. One WWNP member has a portable sound system and video projector that he offers for use to other community groups. Community groups appreciate this support and, in turn, extend invitations to WWNP to provide information at their events. -- Dave Berrian, dberrian@earthlink.net

### **South Bay (San Jose CA) Carries Vision**

On Saturday, April 21st, my daughter, Elena Anderson-Williams and I will present a one-hour workshop offering the conflict intervention exercise based on the real-life situation faced by NP Field Team members. This workshop will be part of the day-long event in San Jose, the fifth annual Community Nonviolence Conference & Youth Leadership Summit at Evergreen Valley College. Keynote speakers will be Yolanda King (eldest daughter of ML King Jr.) and Azim Khamisa, author of Azim's Bardo--From Murder to Forgiveness--A Father's Journey. Check out the website for more information about the event, [www.carrythevision.org](http://www.carrythevision.org). -- Marcia Anderson, [mjapeace@earthlink.net](mailto:mjapeace@earthlink.net)

### **Tucson AZ Looking for Love (or members)**

In February we tabled for NP at Tucson's Annual Peace Fair. A sunny day with good music in the park brought hundreds of people to the Fair. We handed out all our brochures and had good conversations about NP.

Our main goal now is to expand our Chapter's membership. We'd like to do more ambitious projects, but need more person-power. We continue our outreach efforts to churches. One has invited Faith Edman to come speak after she returns from the International Assembly. They are also interested in the Nonviolent Conflict Intervention training, but first we need to be trained to offer it.

Two of our chapter members, Faith Edman, and Paul Christian, will attend the Chapters Association meeting in June.

If you have not done so recently, please check out the USNPCA website at <http://usnpca.org> with our new logo designed by Tucson chapter member Cindy Callahan. Her contribution is much appreciated, as we try to continually update and add accessible resources. And don't forget we can create a web page for your Chapter, like Tucson's and So. Bay's, listed under "Find a Chapter." Please email me if you're interested. --Paul Christian  
[webmaster@usnpca.org](mailto:webmaster@usnpca.org)

#### **PLEASE HELP NP STAFF**

When you email the NP office asking them to send brochures and other information, please remember to include your postal address in your email. Not everyone at the NP office has quick access to the address database, so it would be very helpful to them if you just include yours with your request.

**A Special Thank You** to Paul Christian, Tucson chapter member and USNPCA webmaster, for coming to my rescue to help compile this newsletter. And a huge thanks for contributing his time, energy and money to make our website a useful and growing resource for all of us!

Best wishes and hopes to all,  
Faith Edman, Tucson, newsletter co-compiler