

U.S. Nonviolent Peaceforce Local Chapters Association Newsletter Fall 2006
<http://usnpca.org>

Greetings NP Chapters and Friends,

In this newsletter, along with enthusiastic updates from Local Chapters, you will find info about the new organizational structure for the U.S. NP Chapters Association. We also bring an invitation to lend your time and talents to our new Association. Together we can create a strong and beautiful web of support for each other and for NP.

Wishing you a peaceful winter solstice,
Faith Edman, USNPCA Newsletter editor, Tucson AZ peaceforce_agnews@yahoo.com

SEASON OF PEACE HAS BEGUN!

Dear USNPCA friends,

The Season of Peace Tour featuring Bob Fitch and Linda Sartor is swiftly approaching. The tour begins on November 28 in Eugene, OR and ends December 8 in Boulder, CO. We are awed and inspired by those of you hosting stops on the tour and the amount of work, effort, and care you've put in to the planning and hosting of these events and travelers. The tour is going to be amazing and its success is due to you and all that you have put into it. To those of you in areas not hosting a stop, your support of the tour has been central to its success as well. Lylee and I just want to say a big THANK YOU to everyone, and tell you that we are in constant awe of what we can all accomplish together.

The tour poster and schedule have been posted at www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org. Just click on the 'Season of Peace Tour' link. This information is also available on the USNPCA website under 'Resources.' As we solidify last minute event details and contact information, these will be updated but it was important to get the materials up there as soon as we could.

In this Season of Thanks, I am thankful to know all of you, to have met many of you, and to be privileged enough to draw my inspiration from people like you.

Love,
Natalie nbrenner@nonviolentpeaceforce.org

USNPCA NEEDS YOU

At the USNPCA Conference this past June chapter representatives recognized the need to form committees to further the development of NP and Local Chapters. Listening to talks by NP staff and chapter reps, as well as our informal discussions, it became very clear there are many ways Chapters could be more involved with the growth of NP. By becoming an Association of Chapters it was easy for us to see the need as well as the enjoyment of working together in specific areas.

Because a few members of Local Chapters have experienced working together on a project and found this to be such a rich experience we are inviting everyone to reach out and say yes to joining a committee.

Take a moment to read the description of the committees: Mentoring; Public Speaking;

Training; Internal Communications; Fundraising; and the Interim Coordinating Committee, which is made up of a volunteer from each committee and an NP staff member. You will see the opportunities for learning each committee offers. Think about where you would best fit and then contact the chair-person for more information.

To tell you the truth we need each of you. NP is growing and sometimes it is hard to keep up with this growth. Thanks to Local Chapters taking some of the load we can do this. We all can do this together. We look forward to hearing from you and benefiting from your energy, creativity and, of course, your generosity.

Blessings to all you dear people in the New Year,
Mary Lou Ott, mott@nonviolentpeaceforce.org

Committee (draft) Descriptions & Contacts

FUNDRAISING

Feedback on fundraising success;
Resources for techniques; Promote & develop NP
FR projects; Maintain communication with website;
Generic T-shirts/products; Liaise with coordinating
committee and NP Staff
Contact: Sherry Zitter sherry@sherryzitter.org

INTER-CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS

Be conduit for info/resources for chapters; Manage
website and email & contact lists; Do bi-monthly local
chapter newsletter; Housing network--B&B Network;
Creative fundraising ideas; Regularly communicate with
other committees; Monitor, edit, and clarify what
communications are on listserv; Liaise with coordinating
committee and NP Staff
Contact: Faith Edman nonviolent_peaceforce_tucson@
yahoo.com

MENTORING NEW CHAPTERS

Ensure that NP Staff have new chapter toolkit and info
when in an area with no chapters; Creation of new
chapters; Connecting chapters experienced with certain
things with chapters that need experience; Know where
all the info lives; Keeper of "self-care" reminder duty;
Help up date New Chapter toolkit.
Contact: Carol Miller camil888@aol.com

SPEAKERS BUREAU / OUTREACH

Updating Materials (speakers tool kit; Providing
resources; Collecting template examples for PR and
speakers; Keeping NP Speaker Bank, coordinating
engagements, hold main calendar, set up tours; Collect
regional info, incorporate that info in the "bank"; Call
for info, find connections regularly; Working with
Media
Contact: Sue Sexton sextonius@cboss.com

TRAINING (NCI)

Updating training materials; Public Awareness;
Evaluation; Helps train trainers, ID qualified people ID
people who want to be trained, setting up guidelines for
trainers/chapters for recruiting participants, training;
Financial oversight; Clear idea of our niche/how to
present /coordinate with other similar groups; Liaise
with coordinating committee/NP staff
Contact: David Berrian dberrian@earthlink.net

INTERIM COORDINATING COMMITTEE

General oversight /ensure functionality of all
committees; Oversee financial aspects; Call for annual
meeting committee volunteers;
Set up regular general meetings, open to all, by
conference call; Manage timelines for usnpca functions
and cc member rotations; Oversee selection process for
International Assembly representatives; Encourage
diversity of representation; Liaison with IGC; Contact
for feedback, complaints, requests from public, chapters,
committees; Liaise with other Member Organizations
Current members: please see below

Report from the USNPCA Coordinating Committee

The committee has met by phone three times this fall. We've been feeling our way, exploring ideas about what the tasks of the coordinating committee should be, and about the expected commitment level of committee members. We would like to do better at sharing our thoughts with the Local Chapters, and will now regularly send out our meeting minutes, and ask for your feedback.

On our November 26 conference call, we discussed how the Chapters might select the two folks who would represent USNPCA at the International Assembly in Kenya September 2007. We suggest an application process. The Chapters will be able to review the applications, and to vote as a chapter on who to send. The coordinating committee will tally the votes. The application, selection process and schedule are still in early draft, but will be ready for your suggestions and feedback in early January.

Our first step was to develop a list of preferred qualities that an IA representative would have. They are:

- * Have good first-hand knowledge of NP & of the importance and role of Member Organizations
- * Be an active chapter member (or active USNPCA member if have no chapter)
- * Be a good team person
- * Have the willingness to prepare well for the IA, reading all documents and discussing issues with USNPCA members, and to report back afterward
- * Be willing and able to participate in activities and verbally contribute at the IA meeting

- * Be very flexible, especially regarding travel, food and accommodations
- * Be realistic about health challenges in light of international travel
- * Ability to speak French or Spanish is helpful, not a requirement

Finances: We hope that anyone interested in attending the IA will apply without worrying about affordability. We anticipate asking chapters to contribute toward the representatives' trip. These contributions will be tax deductible. Also, any expenses related to the trip paid for by the attendee are tax deductible.

Chapters may also be invited to assist representatives of Member Organizations in the global south to attend the International Assembly. More on that later.

If you would like to offer feedback on the attendee selection process now, please email usnpca@usnpca.org <<mailto:usnpca@usnpca.org>>

Thanks for your support,
 The USNPCA Coordinating Committee
 Carol Miller, Bucks County PA; Sue Sexton, Mill Creek OH ;Dave Berrian, Western Washington WA;
 Mary Lou Ott, NP, MN ; Faith Edman, Tucson AZ; Mike Corrie, Bucks County PA

-----CHAPTER REPORTS-----

SCRANTON PA – FOR for NP

While Scranton, PA does not have a NP chapter, the very active chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) is helping to sponsor a stop on the Season of Hope Tour. Mariana Garrettson attended the annual meeting of the chapters association this June on behalf of the Philadelphia chapter and is coordinating the event in Scranton. It will be held at the University of Scranton where the Department of Theology and the Department of Art and Music are co-sponsors. It will be an evening event, with potential media interviews in the afternoon. We are also looking into the possibility of having one or more of the speakers present in the afternoon at related courses at local universities (i.e. Bob Fitch speak at a photography class).
 Take care!

Contact: Mariana Garrettson
MPHmarianag@email.unc.edu

PHILADELPHIA AREA – Many Approaches

We met October 30 with 12 participants and heard reports from Steve Angell on the Alternatives to Violence Project, from Mariana Garrettson on the conference of the U.S.N.P. Chapters Association, and from Howard Alber on the Haverford Area Chapter's approaches to the artistic community for support to NP. We concluded by hearing from the 3 new participants on their thoughts related to the Nonviolent Peaceforce.

Our planned events for the Season of Peace Tour:
 Dec. 4 1PM at Foulkeways retirement community, Gwynedd PA.
 Dec. 4 6:30 PM at Medford Leas retirement community, Medford NJ.
 Dec. 5 1PM at Medical Healing Arts Center, Doylestown PA.
 Dec. 5 5:30 PM at Swarthmore College, Swarthmore PA.
 Dec. 6 7:30 PM at U. of Scranton, Scranton PA.

Contact: Clarkson Palmer Ctpalmer@aol.com

Reminder for U.S. Chapters: Please decide if you choose to ratify our new USNPCA Mission Statement

“The U.S. Nonviolent Peaceforce Chapters Association nurtures a powerful network of local chapters that help Nonviolent Peaceforce build an unarmed international civilian peace force. Through working in association with other chapters and member organizations, each chapter becomes a stronger advocate for the [Nonviolent Peaceforce](#), for the practice of nonviolence locally, and to create a sustainable peace throughout the world.”

Please email your decision by December 31 to usnpca@usnpca.org. Thank you!

SAN DIEGO CA – Celebrating Communication

NP San Diego hosted a Satyagraha 100 Years Celebration at St. David's Episcopal Church on Saturday, October 28, from 2-5 pm. We invited people from various peace organizations and from the community at large to view portions of the film "Gandhi", to think about Gandhi's teachings and to practice respect-based communication. Chapter member Julie Johnson gave background for the film excerpts. After watching these and having a break to browse through NP literature and purchase Peace Bonds, we divided into small groups to participate in exercises prepared by Chapter member Carroll Boone who teaches Respect-Based Communication. We learned the importance of setting intentions in our relationships, respecting differences and identifying conflict styles. Although attendance at the event was small, we felt that the attendees were very interested and attentive. Many expressed a desire to have more workshops where we could devote more time to the exercises. Our Chapter realized in retrospect that we could have devoted the whole time to viewing and discussing portions of the movie and had a separate workshop or workshops for Respect-Based Communication. But we also decided that the event was delightful and a successful Satyagraha Celebration.

Contact: Debby Park rayandeb@gmail.com

TUCSON AZ – Wishing for Peace

On September 11, at 9pm, more than 40 folks (many new faces) gathered at El Tiradito Wishing Shrine in downtown Tucson, in a lovely outdoor candle and heart-lit circle. A guitarist played softly as we lit our candles. Chapter members read pieces on the aftermath of 9/11/01, about Gandhi and the birth of Satyagraha, about NP and peaceworkers worldwide. Moments of silent meditation between each reading were framed by the chiming of a gong made from a WWII submarine missile. The evening culminated with all of us together reading the Nonviolence Resolution, and then tying white cotton bands on each others' wrists. It was a simple ceremony that offered moments of solace and shared peace.

Contact: Faith Edman, nonviolent_peaceforce_tucson@yahoo.com

BUCKS COUNTY PA – Idea to Ponder

Just a brief note to say that Anne Moore and I spoke on Saturday and came up with a couple of creative ideas. We propose a conference call with people in our region just to support one another and hopefully to inspire some ideas. Anne also suggested, and I think it is a wonderful idea, to use conference calling with a small group of the members of our mailing list to involve those who are unable to make it to meetings. I thought this was very creative.

Peace,
Carol camil888@verizon.net

GREATER BOSTON MA – Activity Blizzard

We had a good turnout for our Sept. 11th event at the Peace Abbey - about 40 people, old and new to NP, gathered to learn about the history of the other 9-11 and about our current work. I made a beautiful poster of Peace Bonds and encouraged folks to buy them, but FORGOT to sit at a table by the door with them as they were leaving - a big oversight! I hope people bought them thru the internet. Live and learn.

We co-sponsored an event in October featuring Mike Boehm, a Vietnam veteran from Madison WI, who is doing very moving work in My Lai, site of a US massacre in Vietnam, creating a peace park with local residents. He has worked with local residents to create a MY LAI PEACE PARK, and is involved in the GRAMEEN BANK MODEL of offering MICRO CREDIT loans to women, and building much-needed SCHOOLS & CLINICS. Of course, we put out NP literature.

We are working hard on our Bob Fitch tour, sending out gorgeous invitations, posting flyers and making followup phone calls. We hope to get a good turnout at Brandeis on Dec. 7th.

And David Grant is coming through Boston on the weekend of Dec. 2nd, so Helena (Halperin) is hosting a brunch and we'll get to meet him!

Happy Holidays and Blessings to all of you,
Sherry Zitter, sherry@sherryzitter.org