



rpecNEWS

The Newsletter of the Richmond Peace Education Center

April 1999

Report on AVP Workshops Sponsored by RPEC

by Samuel Johnson

On January 22-24 and February 5-7 I attended two weekend workshops sponsored by the Richmond Peace Education Center and presented by the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). The first of these was the AVP Basic Training; the second one was the AVP Training for Trainers. The Alternatives to Violence Project offers workshops in prisons and communities on nonviolent conflict resolution.

The Basic workshop used exercises in affirmation, communication, and cooperation to build a sense of community and trust so those participants could work together effectively. The workshop then led into conflict resolution exercises in which the participants had an opportunity to role-play the real life conflicts they encounter. While there are parts of the workshop that were more "academic" or instructional, much of the learning was experiential or interactive. I found the learning model that the workshop was based on to be as interesting as the content, and was itself an expression of the principles that the workshop aimed to teach: affirmation, communication, mutual respect, and cooperation. A variety of exercises provided opportunities for self-disclosure and listening,

whether in the large group, small groups, or one on one. The concept of the "Transforming Power" that can prevent or change a conflict situation was presented and discussed. If all that seems too heavy or intense, the group regularly lightened up and loosened up with cooperative group games and fun activities called "Light and Livelies"! I can see that an AVP workshop can have a transforming effect upon participants, opening them to respect for self and others, and empowering them to be assertive and take initiative to created non-violent relationships. While designed for prison inmates, this workshop provides anyone with an opportunity for growth and change and can help improve skills in communication, expressing feelings, and getting along with others.

The Training for Trainers is based on the same principles and the same experiential model of learning. Small teams of student AVP trainers were formed and were responsible for most of the planning and leadership for the workshop. In this way the participants became responsible for the workshop and had an opportunity to learn by experience about the planning, leadership, and teamwork that goes into an AVP workshop. The next

step for those who completed the Training for Trainers is to assist an experienced certified AVP trainer in presenting Basic or Advanced AVP workshops. When sufficient competence is achieved, that person may then become a certified AVP trainer.

All in all, a good time was had by all, and I believe that we all were positively affected by the experience in ways that only time will tell as our learnings and reflections find expression in our lives.

* * * * *

Reflections on AVP Training By Vivian Sullivan

"A unique opportunity for introspection - The facilitators deftly guided the sessions to elicit maximum participation. [I am]



Experienced AVP Facilitators who coordinate the AVP Workshops in correctional facilities. l to r: Marilyn Robertson, Don Ayers, Ruth Dahlke

Dismantling Racism

Virginia Organizing Project is sponsoring a workshop on Dismantling Racism on April 16-18, 1999. During this weekend, people of different races and ethnic backgrounds will have the opportunity--both together and in separate groups of people of color and white--to reflect on personal experience, discuss organizational problems, explore new theories in anti-racism work, and focus on how to make change within their organizations and communities. How often do many of us have the opportunity to talk in an open, racially mixed and safe setting about racism?

The weekend begins on Friday at 1:00 p.m. and ends Sunday with lunch. Registration is based on ability to pay. Meals, lodging and work book included in the registration fee. To register, please call: VOP (804) 329-3357.

In This Issue

Report on AVP Workshops.....1
 Dismantling Racism.....2
 Spring Dance Concert.....2
 Abolition Now!! The Gift of Time.....3
 Creative Conflict Resolution Team.....4
 N. U. D. The Subtle New Face of Discrimination.....5
 A Victorious Defeat.....6
 Program Committee Minutes.....6
 Haiti J&P Committees Bring Justice to Rural Areas.....7
 Consumer's Corner.....8
 Five Executions Scheduled for April.....8
 RPEC Peace Essay Contest.....9/10
 Calendar.....11

Volunteers Needed

Get in the action! Join one of our committees. Call 358-1958.

EZIBU MUNTU TO PRESENT DANCE CONCERT FOR PEACE CENTER SPRING FUNDRAISER

On Saturday, May 8, the Richmond Peace Education Center will present in concert the Ezibu Muntu African Dance Company. Ezibu Muntu is Richmond's premiere African dance company, serving the Richmond community and beyond for over 25 years. This not-for-profit organization of dancers, drummers, and individuals is dedicated to bringing African cultural forms and values to wide attention, with the goal of attaining appreciation for African traditions throughout a diversified community. Ezibu Muntu views education as an essential part of its mission as they promote an understanding of West African traditional art forms through performances, lectures, and workshops with the public. They continue to broaden the cultural and artistic environment with their passionate and exciting presentation of traditional African dance forms.

Ezibu Muntu African Dance Company, Inc., began as a student organization on the campus of Virginia Commonwealth University in 1973. Founder, Tanya Dennis, a dance professor at VCU recognized a need for multicultural enrichment in the Richmond community. She particularly wanted to help the African-American students find a sense of ancestral pride and self-esteem. After maintaining status as a university based group, Ezibu decided they could better serve the community with a larger not-for-profit organization aimed at educating the community about

(Continued on page 5)

RPEC Staff

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Bill Gerow
 Program Committee:
 Tom Cleary
 Steve Colecchi
 Adelaide Folensbee
 John Gallini
 Anita Holloman
 Jeff Winder
 Circulation Coordinator:
 Marcelline Niemann

RPEC Staff

Jane Hare,
 Office Manager &
 Events Coordinator
 Marcelline Niemann,
 Office Assistant

rpecNEWS is a publication of the Richmond Peace Education Center. The opinions and announcements in rpecNEWS are those of individual writers and are not necessarily endorsed by the Richmond Peace Education Center.

rpecNEWS is published ten times each year and the circulation is approximately 1,200.

The Richmond Peace Education Center is located at 14 North Laurel St., Richmond, VA 23220. Phone: (804) 358-1958. Fax: (804)358-2213. E-mail: rpec@Richmond.infi.net.

Abolition Now!! The Gift of Time

by John Gallini

The following article is the eighth in our series taken from The Nation, who devoted its entire February 2/9/99 issue to an extensive analysis of nuclear weapons abolition. In this segment Schell explores the views of several experts from Western Europe.

Helmut Schmidt was Chancellor of Germany in the mid-sixties when deployment of U.S. Pershing Missiles was a major issue. At the time Schmidt supported the missile deployment. Today he joins in calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons: "I am not at all optimistic that the goal can be achieved soon, but I think such an appeal does make sense now, because it may reduce the number of weapons. There is always the danger and possibility of cheating. If I were an American, therefore, I would not rid myself of the last nuclear weapons until I was sure that everyone else was doing the same thing at the same time... My feeling is that for a few decades, neither Britain nor France will give up its nuclear capability. On principle they will not do it a second earlier than the other three main nuclear powers."

Rolf Ekeus is the Swedish Ambassador to the U.S. Prior to that he was chairman of the UN's Special Commission, assigned the task of inspecting Iraq's compliance with the agreement to dismantle all its weapons of mass destruction. At the end of his term he was able to declare to the world that "Iraq has no nuclear weapons, and with the existing monitoring regime, Iraq will not be able to acquire nuclear

weapons." Ekeus' position on the abolition of nuclear weapons is: "I don't believe that nuclear weapons provide any state with real security... They have become rather absurd, esoteric, big, clumsy clubs - it is difficult to outline a scenario of use of nuclear weapons... if they exist they can be used, bringing enormous destruction, killing hundreds of thousands of people. And to what end?"

Dr. Maj Britt Theorin is a member of the European Parliament. She believes that this is the time to promote the idea of a nuclear-weapon-free world. She thinks that France, Britain and China will come on board when the U.S. and Russia agree to eliminate those weapons.

Harold Muller is director of the Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, and organization founded by the German government. Muller is a traditional abolitionist who opposes the concept of "virtual arsenals" (arsenals in which the components of nuclear weapons are widely dispersed, discussed in last month's issue), because he believes it would legitimize the idea of nuclear deterrence. Further, it would lead to the military being given the task of returning to nuclear readiness. Schell argued with Muller that "virtual arsenals" could be seen as preferable to today's situation and as a transition to complete abolition. Muller defined zero nuclear weapons as renunciation of the use of such weapons.

Next, Schell looks at the Soviet Union and Russia. He asserts that "Soviet nuclear doctrine remained

poorly developed and obscure. At first subordinated to Marxist dogma, it later became imitative of U.S. thinking... It was not until Gorbachev set out on his path of transforming the Soviet system and ending the cold war that the Soviet Union became an innovator in nuclear policy... When the Soviet Union was overthrown, the newborn Russian Federation fell heir to its nuclear arsenal. The handover was accomplished through a double transfer. First, the Russian military command transferred its loyalty from the Soviet Union to the C.I.S. Second, the non-Russian republics on whose soil nuclear weapons were stationed agreed to send them to Russia. Nuclear weapons proved entirely irrelevant to the course of events when the end came. The Soviet imperial nuclear arsenal was dead. The Russian national arsenal was born. But what was its mission? ... In Russia I raised this and other questions with a number of retired and active military figures, and others... It was evident to everyone that nuclear weapons were of no use in any of the conflicts of pressing interest (e.g. Afghanistan and Chechnya)."

Schell continues, "It is only at the level of global security that nuclear weapons remained important in Russian policy... With the decision to expand NATO to include Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, but not Russia, disappointment acquired an edge of resentment. This reinforced the rationale for nuclear weapons in Russian thinking." He quotes Maj. Gen.

(Continued on page 4)

Abolition Now!! The Gift of Time

by John Gallini

(Continued from page 3)

Belous: "for now, nuclear weapons, including tactical ones, will be one of the principal means for Russia's defense because of its conventional inferiority and economic weakness."

Mikhail Gorbachev presents the world with the paradox of a man who rose like a cork from the bottom to the very top of an immense, repressive political system but, once there, adopted policies that brought the system crashing down around his ears. Its downfall, however, had not been his goal... On the other hand, he did wish to abolish nuclear weapons... There remains at least one

consistent principle in all his actions: a turn away from violence as a political instrument.

Gorbachev recalled: "...when I became a member of the Politburo, I started to become involved in decision-making on matters of defense... When I saw the monster that we and the U.S. had created as a result of the arms race, with all its mistakes and accidents with nuclear weapons and nuclear power, I finally understood what the consequences, including global winter, would be... When I went to London in 1984, I said that nuclear war was impossible, and that conclusion was later reflected in the proposal in 1986 to abolish nuclear

weapons. The real watershed was the summit at Reykjavik. It turned things completely upside down."

Schell asked if a treaty to abolish nuclear weapons should include measures of enforcement. Gorbachev replied, "That question is very serious. You should not take this whole issue out of context. We will never be able to solve the nuclear question unless at the same time we develop a system of international organizations (an effective U.N., Security Council and systems of regional security) in short, unless we have an active political process. We should act preventively, pre-emptively... But the most important thing is to place

Creative Conflict Resolution Team Update

by Ginnie Morrow

The Creative Conflict Resolution Team consists of interested members who provide training in their areas of expertise to individuals and groups in the Central Virginia area. CCRT members provide training in the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) at several correctional facilities for men and women in the area. The AVP coordinators are three talented, experienced, dedicated, and well-organized individuals. Ruth Dahlke, Marilyn Robertson, and Don Ayers, respectively, serve as liaisons to the Pocahontas, Goochland, and James River facilities to arrange training workshops in Basic, Advanced, and a Training for Trainers in AVP. This involves quite a bit of coordination between the prison staff, inside trainers and community trainers to set a date, recruit trainers and participants and coordinate efforts with the prison staff members to make it happen. They also coordinate and facilitate workshops in

the community in AVP. This February, ten participants, including Lee Smith, were prepared as AVP trainers.

Yea team!

CCRT members also provide training in Children's Creative Response to Conflict and Peer Mediation with school and community groups of children and adults. CCRT members are trained in Bias Awareness, Gender and Violence issues, as well as Parenting for Peace and Justice. Current committee members include, (in addition to AVP coordinators already mentioned), Dennis Shannon, Carol McMurray, Sherry Finneran, Shirletta Highsmith, Harold Houghton, Tom Cleary, Linda Heacock, Lee Smith, and Ginnie Morrow. The committee is in the process of reviewing curriculum in the area of Anger Management and planning a spring gathering for trainers to be held

Sunday, May 2, at St. Peter's Catholic Church from 4-7:00 p.m.

Have we got your number?

We are updating our list of trainers so it is important that the Peace Center have your most current address, phone, fax, e-mail, and areas in which you have been trained. We welcome interested persons to join us at our monthly meeting on the 4th Thursday at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education/Union Theological Seminary Ecumenical Resource Center on Palmyra Avenue near Brook Road. The next meeting is March 25 at 7:00 p.m. If interested, but unable to attend the meeting, call Ginnie Morrow, chair, at 329-9779 (evenings).

Requests for training or updates to trainer contact list should be made to Jane Hare at 358-1958.

N.U.D. - The Subtle New Face of Discrimination

by Lee A. Smith, Jr.

You have probably never heard of "N.U.D." With good reason, It is the acronym for a very subtle and little known marketing term specifically directed toward people of color. NUD stands for Non Urban Dictate. Three words that essentially mean a company is not interested in the Black consumer. A NUD label means that a company does not want their marketing and advertising materials placed in media that claim an urban audience as their main target.

Most recently this policy surfaced in conjunction with Black Radio. There might be legitimate reasons for companies not using urban radio. It may be that Blacks don't index high in certain categories or that a company's strategy is to market to the Black consumer down the road after they have established a strong position in their primary target. But an NUD usually means that a company is not interested in the Black consumer. Companies evade discrimination liability by embracing it as theory rather than policy.

As a service to consumers on the Peace Center mailing list I have listed all companies that have a NUD policy. Armed with this information, I feel that consumers will be able to make informed buying decisions. If you, your friends or colleagues know of other companies that need to be on this list please feel free to email those names to the Urbane Insite at webmaster@urbaninsite.com. Their goal is to educate theses companies to the value of the Black consumer market. While I hope to empower our members so that we

can spend our money with companies that value all of us as consumers and employees. We look forward to the day when this list will disappear and instead will have a list of the companies that welcome all consumers.

Companies with NUD:

- Starbucks
- Jos. A Bank
- CompUSA
- Weight Watchers
- Keebler
- Continental Airlines
- Northwest Airlines
- America West Airlines
- Life Savers
- HBO - Apollo Series
- Paternal Importers
- Calico Corners
- OM Scott
- Pepperidge Farms
- Ethan Allen
- Busy Body Fitness
- Mondavi Wines
- Builders Square
- Don Pablo
- Aruba Tourism
- Lexus
- Ciba Vision
- Kindercare
- Grady Restaurant
- Eddie Bauer (Bower)

Information gathered from the Urban Insite,
<http://www.urbaninsite.com>.

Submitted
by Lee A. Smith, Jr.



Conflict Resolution Committee Minutes

The Conflict Resolution Committee met on 2/25. The group is working on development of an Anger Management Curriculum. A variety of resources will be checked out. Arrangements are being made to provide training to coaches at the BelleMeade Community center in April.

A Trainer Gathering is scheduled for May 2, from 4-7:00 p.m., with April 25 as an alternate date. A location has not yet been confirmed. The Committee is updating the list of certified trainers, with current addresses, areas of certification and e-mail addresses.

Three committee members will attend the Safe Night Video Conference on March 3 at WCVE.

The next meeting is March 25, 7:00 p.m. at the Ecumenical Resource Center, PSCE/UTS, at the

EZIBU MUNTU TO PRESENT DANCE CONCERT FOR PEACE CENTER SPRING FUNDRAISER

(Continued from page 2)

African customs and traditions. In 1984, Ezibu established itself as a corporation and has been exciting and educating audiences for over 25 years. It is estimated that since its auspicious beginning more than 500 individuals have been directly involved with the Ezibu Muntu family. Over the years, Ezibu has produced many professional artists in a wide variety of artistic disciplines.

Ezibu attempts to facilitate the

(Continued on page 7)

"A Victorious Defeat"

by Henry Heller

In Virginia, a person condemned to death has 21 days after sentencing to have their newly discovered evidence of innocence considered by an appeals court. Although other states have similar restrictions, Virginia is the only state that does not waive this limitation in death penalty cases. For the last 3 years a bill has been introduced in the Virginia Legislature to repeal this law. The Capital Case Bill of Review never made it out of committee until this year. With 39 Legislators signing on to the bill, it made it to the floor of the House of Delegates by a vote of 13-11, with the vote going along party lines, except

for 1 Republican voting with the Democrats. In the week before the vote, Legislators were swamped with phone calls calling on them to vote for the bill. In a timely

coincidence, Sr. Helen Prejean spoke to a number of Virginia and Washington, DC audiences that week and encouraged them to contact their legislators. As one Legislator put it in a conversation with a constituent, "this 21-Day Rule Bill is driving me crazy." Del. Jim Almand, the chief sponsor of the bill called on his colleagues to "take a stand for the rights of the innocent" and pass the bill. The bill's detractors saw it only as a step to the elimination of the death penalty in Virginia. Del. Almand distributed editorials from a number of major Virginia newspapers, including the highly conservative,



Richmond Times- Dispatch calling for the repeal of the 21- Day Rule. After the bill passed the House Courts of Justice Committee, the Attorney General's office and the Commonwealth Attorney's Association lobbied very hard to kill the bill. They claimed that not only would it lead to the demise of the death penalty in Virginia, but to more work for their offices. In the end, 46 out of 100 Delegates stood up for "the rights of the innocent" and voted for the bill. The bill was newsworthy enough to be reported in the media extensively. Del. Almand felt that the bill lost due in part to it being an election year. As

a matter of fact, 2 democratic legislators who voted for it in committee voted against it on the floor. The vote also crossed party lines with 11 republicans

voting for the bill and 13 democrats voting against it. Del. Almand plans to introduce the bill once again next year. While many were discouraged by the vote, we should feel encouraged at the progress that it has made through the years. Not only did we lose by only 5 votes, but we were able to raise the issue in the legislature and the media. Being that support crossed party lines makes the bill a bipartisan issue. Virginians will be working throughout the year to continue educating legislators about the issue. For more information see our web site at www.vadp.org or call 804-263-8148.

Program Committee Minutes

The Program Committee met on March 2, at 3:00 p.m. Plans were made for the April newsletter. Tom Cleary announced nationwide protests at J. C. Penney stores on Monday 3/8 re the Guatemala VanHeusen plant closing.

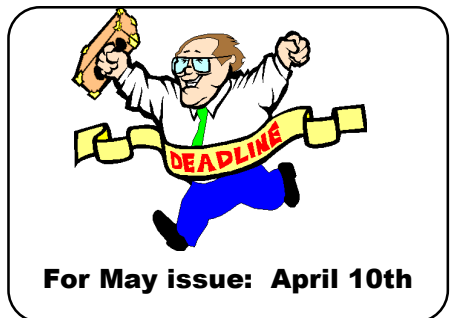
John Gallini announced that Dan Moseley, a VCU student, will be working on the evaluation of local businesses.

Tom reported on the meeting with Anita Holloman at Bellemeade Center. Arrangements will be made for a workshop on Conflict Resolution for staff, Board and coaches in late March.

Jeff Winder's request for assistance in covering the cost of his trip to Chiapas with Witness for Peace was considered. Fifty dollars will be provided.

An application has been received from a Mary Baldwin College student to serve as an intern at the Peace Center. She would like to focus on international relations. The committee suggested research in the area of non-governmental efforts for peace in Central America. The Committee will assist in directing this study.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2:30 p.m. at Adelaide Folensbee's home.



For May issue: April 10th

Haiti J&P Committees Bring Justice to Rural Areas

by John Gallini

One of the truly hopeful developments in rural Haiti involves small groups of volunteers who act as watchdogs for the criminal justice system. It is an example of how people with little material wealth can take charge of their own lives.

Three members of St. Edward Catholic Church in Richmond had traveled two days to reach the town of Cerca Carvajal on Haiti's Central Plateau, the site of our Twin Parish - Sen Fanmi (Holy Family). We were sitting on the porch of the parish house with the Associate Pastor, our Haitian interpreter, and two men who were Coordinators of the Justice and Peace Committee of the parish.

They pointed out that the organization of the J&P Committee in the parish involved two representatives in each village where there is a Chapel. There are 10 Chapels spread over an area of about 200 square miles, with a total population of about 50,000. Whenever a person is involved in a situation with the police or the courts, they contact the J&P representative in their village, who, in turn, tries to understand the facts of the case. That information is conveyed to one of the three J&P Coordinators.

These Coordinators then go to the jail if a person has been arrested, or to the court if a judge is involved. Their purpose is to see that justice is served. If they feel that a person is unjustly held, or sentenced, they talk to the judge. Sometimes they have to gather more information about the case. Occasionally they have to take the

appeal to the Diocesan J&P Commission in the Provincial Capitol of Hinche.

When we asked about how this intervention was accepted by the authorities, they observed that after their participation in the first few cases, the judges came to know them and to know that they would be present at trials. After that there was little occasion to disagree with the rulings of the judges, suggesting that their presence and the threat of appeal had a positive effect. He also commented that the two judges in their region were quite reasonable and not difficult to deal with, but that in some parts of the country justice was "for sale".

Coordinators and three other Committee members are trained through quarterly Diocesan meetings. They, in turn, train the remaining Committee members at monthly parish meetings. All of the members of the J&P Committees are volunteers who receive no pay for their work.

The J&P system was begun in the mid 1980's, but has been much more active in the past two years. While it is a Catholic Church initiative, and the Coordinators are selected by the Church (i.e. pastor), they assist everyone who asks. Sometimes they have no cases in a month, sometimes as many as four. They also said that the system was in place throughout Haiti.

As we three North Americans sat and listened in the late afternoon, we were struck both by the apparent effectiveness of this system and the great dignity of these two men. We resolved that we would seek ways to tell this

PEACE CENTER CONCERT

(Continued from page 5)

audience's understanding of African traditions as they relate to American society and the societies of our ancestors. Concerts illustrate the authentic magnificence of the dance and rhythms with a display of movement and costuming that is entrancing.

Workshops encourage participants to actually learn the dance and rhythms while lecture-demonstrations "tell" and "show" specific cultural concepts in depth. Ezibu offers a glance at aspects of several West African societies, such as the Old Mali Empire, Liberia, and the Yoruba's of Nigeria. The company's repertoire also includes dances from South Africa and the Caribbean.

The opening act for Ezibu will be the Boushall Dance Troupe, a group of Middle School Students, under the direction of Renee Knight. This group got its start six years ago as an after school program for 6th to 8th graders. It was so successful that it was incorporated into the school curriculum. Membership in the group is constantly changing as the students move on to high school, and a number of them become part of the Ezibu Muntu Dance Company.

This promises to be a very special occasion for the Peace Center and the community it serves. Mark your calendars now and invite your friends for this exciting event on Saturday, May 8, 7:00 p.m. (place to be announced.)



Consumer's Corner

GOOD NEWS . . .

Co-op America reports that a Disney clothing contractor in Haiti is negotiating with newly unionized employees and has reinstated two workers who had been suspended for talking to Disney monitors last summer.

AND NOT SO GOOD . . .

In 1997, we rejoiced as workers at the Phillips-Van Heusen factory in Guatemala won a Union Contract, after a six year struggle. And indeed, wage rates and working conditions improved dramatically. Now the factory has been closed, leaving 500 workers without a job. Jay Mazur, president of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees, said that the factory closing was intended to warn apparel workers at other plants in Guatemala and Central America that if they voted to join a union their jobs would be in jeopardy. (New York Times, 2/28/99)

BANKING IN RICHMOND

One way that most of us can have some impact on justice issues is by choosing a place to save our money (assuming there is some to save). Banks and credit unions come in many sizes and shapes (mostly very large nowadays) and they have different policies with regard to how they use the money we entrust them with. When I first came to Richmond in 1970, some banks would automatically refuse to

lend money in poor, inner-city neighborhoods, a practice known as "redlining". At that time HOME (Housing Opportunities Made Equal) was formed to combat discrimination in home sales and rentals - and HOME is still very active in this area. So I sought their advice in terms of which banks in the Richmond area were particularly good (or bad!) with respect to discrimination. Jim Naggles' response was that, based on the experience of HOME staff who deal with lenders, HOME sees a few origination problems, occasional service problems, and no reason to heap praise on anyone. So, local practices do not seem to give much guidance. Of course, most banks in our community are parts of large multinational banking empires which are implicated in the 3rd World debt crisis, structural adjustment, etc. But that is a very complicated picture.

I have chosen a simple way out. We keep our savings in the Self Help Credit Union (SHCU) which operates in North Carolina. SHCU is a Federally insured credit union whose purpose is to "provide financing to help low-wealth families - particularly minorities, women and rural residents - buy homes, build businesses and strengthen community resources." South Shore Bank in Chicago has similar objectives, and there are a few others, but none that I know in Virginia. This approach meets my basic needs of financial security and flexibility, while being used in a way that promotes social justice. You can reach SHCU at 1-800-966-SELF, or on the web at <http://www.>

Five Executions Scheduled for April!!

In a year already headed for another record number of executions by the State of Virginia, the State has scheduled five more executions for April. It seems a resounding affirmation of our society's belief that "violence is the answer, sometimes!" For those of us who believe that violence only produces more violence, it is a sad time. Since the death penalty was re-instituted in the 70's, people in Richmond have gathered for prayer whenever a man has been executed - and we continue to do so. The services are from 8:30 - 9:15 PM, alternating between St. Peter Catholic Church (8th & Grace) and Richmond Friends Meeting (Kensington and Commonwealth). We encourage all who oppose violence to join us - at least by pausing for a moment and noting the occasion. Here is the list:

April 6: at St. Peter's;
Terry Williams
Victim: Harris T. Stone

April 13: at Friends;
Carl Chichester
Victim: Timothy Rigby

April 20: at St. Peter's;
Arthur Jenkins
Victims: Floyd Jenkins,
Lee Brinklow

April 28: at Friends;
Eric Payne
Victims: Ruth Parham,
Sally Marie Fazio

April 29: at St. Peter's;
Ronald Yeatts

PRAYER
FOR JUSTICE

The Richmond Peace Education Center presents: The 1999 Peace Essay Contest

Theme: Playing for Peace

Sports and games are an important part of our lives. What lessons do sports and games teach about conflict and its resolution? How can individuals and nations use these lessons to handle conflicts and settle disputes?

First Prize -- \$150

Second prize -- \$50

Third prize -- \$25

Five Honorable mentions - - \$20

Prizes awarded in 4 different age divisions

- * Open to any elementary, middle, or high school student in central Virginia,
- * Prizes awarded at each school level: K-3, 4-5, middle, and high school.
- * Entries judged on content, composition, style and grammar
- * Deadline for entries: May 3, 1999. Submit two copies of each entry, along with an entry form (found on the reverse side).
- * Each entry must represent the original work of the student author.
- * Winners will be notified on or about June 1, 1999. Winners will also be invited to attend the Richmond Peace Education Center's annual dinner meeting in October, 1999.

The Richmond Peace Education Center works to build a peaceful world by

- * helping people see the connections between injustice in its many forms and the violence in our neighborhoods and our world,
- * promoting nonviolent means of conflict resolution.
- * encouraging people to become involved in groups taking action on issues of justice and peace in our world, and supporting the work of such groups.

Send entries to: Essay Contest, Richmond Peace Education Center, 14 N. Laurel St.
Richmond VA 23220 (804) 358-1958

1999 Peace Essay Contest Entry Form

Student Name _____

Home Address _____

City, State and Zip code _____

Telephone _____

School _____ Phone _____

Grade/level _____ School division _____

We hereby certify that this entry to the 1999 Peace Essay Contest is the original work of the student

Student Signature _____

Signature of sponsoring
teacher, parent or guardian _____

Contest rules:

1. The contest is open to all elementary, middle, and high school students in the Richmond region.
2. Entries must be limited to 1000 words or less.
3. Essays will be judged and prizes awarded separately at each school level--primary (gr. K-3), elementary (gr. 4-5),-middle (gr. 6-8), and high school (gr. 9-12).
4. Submit two copies of each entry, and keep a copy for your records. Each entry must also include a completed entry form (above). No entries will be returned.
5. The final essay must represent the original work of the student.
6. Primary (K-3) entries may include an original illustration.
7. Entries must be typed and double spaced, or neatly and legibly written. Each page must be numbered.
8. Submission of an entry grants permission for the Richmond Peace Education Center (RPEC) to print the essay or excerpts from it in its newsletter or other publications. Winning entrants will be invited to an award ceremony held as part of the RPEC annual meeting in October.
9. Essays will be judged on the basis of content style, composition, mechanics and usage. The decisions of the judges will be final.
10. Deadline for submissions is May 3, 1999. Winning entrants will be notified of the judges' decision by the week of June 1, 1999.

Send this entry form and two copies of the essay to: **Essay Contest, Richmond Peace Education Center, 14 N. Laurel St., Richmond VA 23220 (804) 358-1958**

April '99**CALENDAR****Meetings of Local Groups**

- Every Wed.** **General Strike**, 8:00 PM. Call 355-6914 for details
- Every 3rd Wed.** **Amnesty International**, 7:00 PM at Friends Meeting. 4500 Kensington Ave. Call 320-9488
- Every 2nd Thurs.** **Virginians Against Handgun Violence**, 7:15 PM., Jewish Community Center, B. Phillips-Taylor, 737-2975
- Every 3rd Friday** **Sufi Dancing: Dances of Universal Peace**, 7:30-9:30 PM except Oct. Round House, Byrd Park. 353-4901
- Every Thurs.** **Richmond Organization for Sexual Minority Youth (ROSMY)**, 7:00-9:00 PM. Call support line: 353-2077 for more information; 353-1699 for the administrative line.
- Every 3rd Sat.** **Virginians for Justice**, 12:00 noon at the office. A political advocacy group working towards equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens of Virginia. Open to the public. Contact number is 643-4816.
- Every 3rd Sun.** **Richmond Community for Ethics and Meaning**, at First Unitarian. 1000 Blanton Ave., 5-8 PM, Susan at 784-4069.
- Every 4th Mon.** **RPEC's Reading Group on Racism** at Tuckahoe Library's Small Meeting Room, 1700 Parham Road, 7-8:30 PM, Regina 747-4011.
- Every 4th Sat.** **Pax Christi Peace Community** - Call Elaine Ogburn for details - 320-4514.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 2** **11:45 - 3:00 PM - Way of the Cross on Church Hill. Meet at Patrick Henry Park (E. Broad and 24th) for this 3 hour pilgrimage connecting the suffering of Good Friday with the suffering in our city.**
- April 10** **RPEC Board Retreat at "The Clearing"**
- April 13** **Jose Ramos-Horta, 1996 Nobel Peace Prize Recipient, will speak on "Human Rights: Democracy and the rule of Law in the Asia Pacific Rim", at Tyler Haynes Commons, University of Richmond at 7:30 PM.**
- April 22** **Conflict Resolution Committee Meeting. 7:00 PM at the Ecumenical Resource Center at PSCE/UTS**
- April 22** **Catholic Advocacy Day in Washington, DC. Contact the Diocesan Office of Justice and Peace (359-5661) for details. for details by April 15th.**
- May 8** **RPEC Spring Dance Concert featuring Ezibu Muntu Dance Group. Place TBD**

RPEC World Wide Web Address:
<http://www.rpec.org>

WHAT'S COOKING AT RPEC?

Be a part of the exciting new fundraiser effort at RPEC! The Center is planning to publish a cook book and we need your help. Please submit one or more of your favorite recipes ranging from the simple to gourmet and/or somewhere in between. Because there are so many wonderful kinds of foods and many ways to prepare them, we welcome all kinds of recipes--national, international, vegetarian and non-vegetarian. If there is a special story related to your recipe, we'd love to have you share that too.

Our goal is to have the book ready to be displayed and sold at the Annual

Dinner and Auction November 5, 1999. Therefore, to allow the committee time to get everything ready to go to the printer, we must have your submissions by June 30, 1999. There are several ways you can get your recipes to us:

E-mail: rpec@richmond.infi.net

Fax: (804) 358-2213

US Mail: Cookbook, c/o RPEC
14 North Laurel St.



Richmond, VA 23220

Because it is so important that there be no mistakes in the recipe content and directions, please print, type or photocopy your submissions. We want to list your name with the recipes, so be sure to include that also. (In addition, please include your telephone number just in case there is a question.)

Committee members are Anne Gray (359-5108), Mary Jane Gerow (379-6696) and Jean Beck (329-8974); and they will be glad to answer any questions you may have. Also, you can call RPEC (358-1958) if you are unable to reach one of them.



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Richmond, VA
Permit #1119