

rpecNEWS

The Newsletter of the Richmond Peace Education Center

October 1999

ANNUAL DINNER AND AUCTION SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 5

On Friday, November 5, a fun-loving group of Peace Center supporters and friends will gather at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church for the annual meeting and a celebration of the work of the Center. In addition to enjoying a specially prepared meal, the group will be able to feast their eyes on a wide array of items which have been donated by businesses and friends. These items will be offered for sale to the highest bidder and, yes, friendly competition will be encouraged as all the proceeds will benefit the Peace Center.

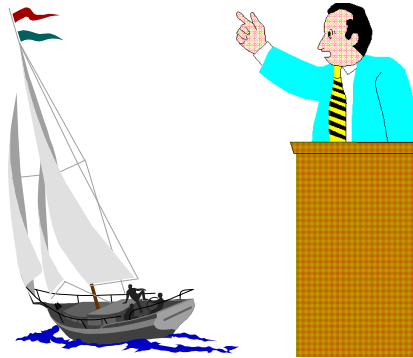
There will be something for everyone--from Dairy Queen Coupons to a luncheon cruise on the Annabel Lee.

-If you're a "beach bum" who loves to bask in the sun and listen to the roar of the ocean, bid your highest for a week at Janet Heckman's North Carolina beach house.

-If interior decorating is your passion, you'll want to consider the eight hours of carpentry work donated by Christopher Greene of Commonwealth Restoration and a number of beautifully decorated bowls and pots from Robert Rentz Interiors.

-The adventurous spirit won't want to miss an opportunity for skiing or snow tubing on Massanutten Peak. Or try Yoga lessons and therapeutic body massages.

-And for those who love to eat, there are delicious opportunities waiting for you. Gift Certificates from a wide range of restaurants or home-cooked meals with the best cooks from the Peace Center's membership are in



plentiful supply for the gourmet to the "down-home" palate.

-Sports Fans won't go wanting! The new kid on the block--the Richmond Rhythm Basketball team--is offering a season ticket plus five opening game tickets for November 27th. There are tickets for the Braves Baseball games, the Kickers' soccer games, and games of the Renegades, our championship hockey team. All this is available in addition to golf outings at The Hollows Golf Course or

Stephanie Baker Wins RPEC Essay Contest

The 1999 Richmond Peace Education Center Essay Contest 1st place winner in the Elementary School division, Grades 4-5, is Stephanie Baker from Walsingham Academy.

Her winning essay, "Playing for Peace", is printed on page 6. Congratulations Stephanie!

Windy Hill Sports Complex.

For those who have "been there, done that" some fabulous new offerings are available this year!

-Two nights' accommodations for two in the beautiful home of Tom and Mary Ann Harty in Guilford, Connecticut on Long Island Sound. A tasty breakfast is part of the package, along with many options for exploring the area.

-A sailor's dream--a 14-foot Sailboat--Bandit Class Sloop with sails and trailer, donated by Paul Fleisher, will be auctioned. (A minimum bid of \$600 has been set.)

-A season ticket for the NEW Richmond Rhythm International Basketball league 32-game schedule, Center Court Lower, valued at \$450. All games played at the Richmond Coliseum.

-A 25-Minute Puppet Show - "Little Red and The Gingerbread Man" donated and performed by Heidi Rugg and Barefoot Puppets of Richmond will make a children's event extra special!

The list goes on (see page 7 for more) but we need lots of people to make the evening a real financial success. Plan now to be present - November 5, 6:00 p.m. at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 7, not to exceed \$25 per family. Call the Peace Center for reservations or to volunteer - 358-1958.

The timing is right for Holiday shopping or for just giving yourself a treat! Don't Miss It!

The Board of Directors asks for Input from Membership

Position Papers are being developed to provide a framework for the statements and actions of the Peace Center. As members and supporters of the Center, what issues would you highlight for consideration by the Board? Currently, the Board has adopted a Paper on Non-Violence and the Schools, and another is under development on the Death Penalty. Give us a call at 358-1958 or e-mail us at rpec@richmond.infi.net and give us your suggestions. Also, if you'd like to help work on a Position Paper, we'd like to hear from you.

VADP Annual Conference to Focus on 21-Day Rule

Please mark Saturday October 16 on your calendars for VADP's annual conference at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Charlottesville. Our main focus will be the 21- Day Rule. Delegate Jim Almand who has sponsored the Bill the last 3 years will join us. The strategy session will be led by Marie Deans and Wes Hottot who has been spending the last 2 months (through a special grant from the Mid-Atlantic Office of Amnesty International) studying the intricacies of the law and developing a brochure.

Web Page Update

John Gallini

We continue to provide regular updates to the RPEC web page. There are now twenty separate issues covered on the issues page, and we hope to add several more in the coming weeks. We would appreciate (indeed, we need) your input - articles and links of interest, suggestions for additional issues. The calendar should provide an up-to-date listing of programs of interest to RPEC members. The main thing we are missing is visitors to the site. We will keep at it if there is enough interest.

The RPEC Web Site is located at:
<http://www.rpec.org>



**For November Newsletter
October 10**

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Consumer's Corner

by John Gallini

In the last issue I described three books that have helped me make informed choices as to what products and services to purchase. None of the three, however, provides adequate guidance with reference to the issues associated with the many boycotts in force, such as the use of sweatshop labor.

The best resource I have found for dealing with these issues is Coop America. Their Fall, 1999 issue of "Coop America Quarterly" is focused on sweatshops. In addition to providing information on several of the campaigns, Coop America proposes a "Ladders of Labor Responsibility" approach in which brand name items are rated according to their labor practices. In the Fall issue, they rate companies that market coffee, T-shirts, and shoes. One difficulty is that most of the companies that make it to "Top Rung" or "Upper Rungs" categories are not widely available. Here is the list of the companies in these categories:

	<u>Coffee</u>	<u>T-shirts</u>	<u>Walking Shoes</u>
Top Rung	<p>Equal Exchange (available from Ten Thousand Villages)</p> <p>Cafe Campesino (912)924-2468 Americus, GA</p> <p>+ 3 others in California</p>	<p>Clean Clothes/ Maggie's Organics (800)609-8953</p>	<p>deep e co (503)299-6647 Portland, OR</p> <p>ECO-ORGANICS (888)ECO-ORGANICS</p>
Upper Rungs	<p>Organic Coffee Co. (800)758-5282 Bridgewater, MA</p>	<p>Patagonia (800)638-6464 Reno, NV</p>	<p>Timberland Co. (603)772-9500 Stratham, NH</p> <p>Birkenstock www.Birkenstock.com Novato, CA</p>

Coop America also provides quarterly updates of about 50 boycotts, along with an explanation of the reasons for the boycotts. Some of the boycotts have been around for some time, such as:

- * The FLOC call for a boycott of Mt. Olive products (see the last issue of rpecNEWS)
- * The INFACCT call for a boycott of Philip Morris
- * The United Farm Workers call to boycott California table grapes
- * Sierra Club call for a boycott of Shell Oil

Others are new (to me, anyway), such as the Mothers & Others for a Livable Planet call for a boycott of PVC plastic and especially #3 packaging materials. Coop America can be reached at: 1612 K Street NW, #600, Washington, DC 20006 (212) 331-8166.

The Internet is an excellent source of information about sweatshops and boycotts, and we have provided good connections on RPEC's web page (www.rpec.org) through a "Sweatshops" page and one on "Simple Living". The Sweatshops page provides frequent updates from the Campaign for Labor Rights.

Of course, all of this gets to be quite complicated. I deal with complexity by working on my habitual patterns. So I check out Shopping for a Better World and the various boycotts for a specific product - then stick with that product (e.g. I buy Equal Exchange coffee at Ten Thousand Villages, and I look for Kellogg and General Mills products and avoid Post brands - Post is owned by Philip Morris). And it has been years since I bought California table grapes.

Irma Graciela Azmitia Dorantes, Guatemalan Human Rights Worker, to Speak

During Guatemala's 36 year long civil war, the notoriously brutal armed forces enacted a scorched earth campaign to eradicate guerilla insurgents and suspected sympathizers. In a country of 11 million inhabitants, the military killed over 150,000 civilians and uprooted a million more from their homes.

Irma Graciela Azmitia Dorantes (Chely), a Guatemalan human rights worker, was forced to flee her homeland to Mexico in 1981 after her father, a brother and pregnant sister were "disappeared" by the Guatemalan military. Chely returned to Guatemala in 1992 to work on a groundbreaking human rights initiative sponsored by the Catholic Church. The Project for the Recovery of the Historic Memory (PEMHI in Spanish) collected testimony from thousands of individuals who suffered human rights abuses during the war. The project culminated in its release on April 24, 1998. Two days later, the director of the project, Monsignor Juan Gerard was brutally assassinated. The document revealed that 93% of the wartime abuses were committed by the military.

Please join us to hear about Chely's experience during the war, her work on the PEMHI Project and to find out what you can do to help bring peace to Guatemala.

Peace and Reconciliation in Guatemala

Monday, October 4th 1999

7: 00 p.m.

Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

823 Park Ave. Richmond

For more information call Jeff Winder at (804) 457-2631

Sponsoring organizations: Christian Peacemaker Teams, Office of Justice and Peace Catholic Diocese of Richmond, Richmond Peace Education Center, Richmond Sowers of Justice, Witness for Peace

Bangor Clean Clothes Campaign

by Tom Cleary

Bangor, Maine is the first to go on record in support of a simple principle: "Clothes sold in local stores should be made according to established international standards of ethical production."

Some facts: Most of the world's 30 million garment workers labor in sweatshop conditions. Of clothes made in the U.S., 50 % come from sweatshops. 7,500 Mainers have lost their jobs in the past 10 years due to sweatshops paying less than 10% of Maine wages. U.S. shoppers buy one quarter of the world's manufactured clothes. Sweatshop producers would feel the pinch if just 2% of us bought from non-sweatshop suppliers.

The Bangor City Council has passed a Clean Clothes Resolution unanimously. Retailers develop Clean Clothes inventory with the help of the Bangor Clean Clothes Consumer Network. Criteria include designated union labels, Clean Clothiers certification from independent monitors, and Fair Trade Federation endorsement.

Retailers inform their suppliers about Bangor's Clean Clothes resolution and designate personnel to respond to consumer requests. The Consumer Network conveys a strong negative message naming brand name companies who use sweatshop labor. Shoppers press retailers to adopt ethical practices. The Network provides competitive advantage to the stores that share their concerns.

The Bangor Clean Clothes Campaign has been organized in conjunction with PICA - Peace through Interamerican Community Action, a non-profit center in Bangor.

Further information available:

PICA
128 Main St.
Bangor, ME 04401
(207) 947-4203
e-mail: pical@hamtel.tds.net
<http://bairnet.bpl.me.us/organizations/pica>

PICA publishes a newsletter called "Clean Clothes Shopping Guide" with articles on this

Tom Cleary Leaves

Tom Cleary, a long-time trainer, peace activist, and board member with RPEC, is leaving Richmond today, 9/15, to follow his heart to New Mexico. He is driving part of the way alone and part of the way with his brother and will find an apartment until January. At that time Tom and Rita will be wed in a simple ceremony and will create their home in Albuquerque. Let us share with them every grace and good wish in their adventures together!

Tom,

Thank you for being you-
For sharing this part of the journey (and the dance) with us--

Thank you, for your friendship and constant peaceful presence
in the work and celebration of nonviolence in all aspects of life--
in the prisons, schools, community workshops, death penalty vigils,
in demonstrations and prayers for peace in the midst of war and its rumors,
in opening your home to welcome all as family,
in tireless work to close the School of the Americas,
in raising your voice and sharing your heart.

You have inspired us with your simple humility,
gentle courage,
compassionate commitment,
energizing anger
healing humor,
encouraging love.

Namaste'
May Peace be always with you and your family.
May you know you are always at home with us.
Vaya con Dios!

Ginnie Morrow (on behalf of the RPEC community)

RPEC COOKBOOK



For various reasons beyond the control of the Cookbook Committee, our cookbook will not be ready in time to show and sell at the Annual Dinner/Auction November 5. The committee is

disappointed about this but we do hope to have information that will give you an idea of what the book will be like. We will be taking orders that evening and expect to have the books in Richmond before the end of November.

Now is the time to give some thought to your Christmas gift list and to whom you would like to present a cookbook.

Regards, Jean Beck

CREATING A CIRCLE OF FAMILIES, ONE MILLION STRONG IN THE YEAR 2000

by Linda Heacock

The following "Family Pledge of Nonviolence" was developed by the Families Against Violence Advocacy Network- (FAVAN), as a means of helping families challenge the "culture of violence" in our society today. FAVAN is seeking to recruit one million families as we move into the new millenium, to commit to a stand against violence, by signing the Pledge, (Refer to related article in the September '99 issue of rpecNEWS.) For more information about the pledge or other FAVAN resources/programs, contact the organization directly (see below) or Linda Heacock at 752-6752,

Family Pledge of Nonviolence

Making peace must start within ourselves and in our family. Each of us, members of the _____ family, commit ourselves as best we can to become nonviolent and peaceable people:

To Respect Self and Others

To respect myself, to affirm others and to avoid uncaring criticism, hateful words, physical attacks and self-

destructive behavior

To Communicate Better

To share my feelings honestly, to look for safe ways to express my anger and to work at solving problems peacefully.

To Listen

To listen carefully to one another, especially those who disagree with me, and to consider others' feelings and needs rather insist on having my own way.

To Forgive

To apologize and make amends when I have hurt another, to forgive others, and to keep from holding grudges.

To Respect Nature

To treat the environment and all living things, including our pets, with respect and care.

To Play Creatively

To select entertainment and toys that support our family's values and to avoid entertainment that makes

violence look exciting, funny or acceptable.

To Be Courageous

To challenge violence in all its forms whenever I encounter it, whether at home, at school, at work or in the community, and to stand with others who are treated unfairly.

This is our pledge. These are our goals. We will check ourselves on what we have pledged once a month on _____ for the next twelve months so that we can help each other become more peaceable people.

"Families Against Violence Advocacy Network",
c/o The Parenting for Peace & Justice Network,
Institute for Peace & Justice,
4414 Lindell Blvd., #408,
St. Louis, MO 63108
Phone: 314-533-4445;
Fax: 314-533-1017
E-mail: ppjn@aol.com

Playing for Peace

by Stephanie Baker

Sports and games are important opportunities for people to interact and learn. They teach us rules about life, and show us how to become better people.

Teamwork is the key to becoming more compatible with others. If everybody tried it, sports would be more enjoyable to play, and more worthwhile, too.

Often, competition is chiefly what we think about. Instead, we should concentrate on doing our best, having fun, and helping each other. For example, if a teammate gets hurt or has trouble, we should

reach out and care for them. Plus, we should share our equipment with anyone who needs it. Everyone should try to be a good sport. This means congratulating the other team and not worrying about winning or losing. Disputes should be settled in a peaceful way, rather than having people getting angry and ending friendships.

Games are also for having a good time. Like sports, we sometimes get too caught up in winning that we don't enjoy playing the game. We as individuals can learn to handle conflicts and settle

disputes by some lessons learned in sports. We can solve arguments by talking it out just like the rough spots in a sport or game can be talked out. We can use the lessons of making new friends, helping out our teammates, and sharing resources instead of arguing over them. The leaders of nations should try harder to talk things over instead of fighting with one another.

Everybody should try to handle conflicts and settle disputes without arguing or doing something worse, like war. This would certainly lead to a more peaceable world.

Area Businesses and Friends Donate Items for RPEC Auction



- Admission to the Valentine Museum Yoga Classes and a reflexology treatment by Nora Pozzi of Integral Yoga Institute
- VIP Weekend for your pet at Holiday Barn Pet Hotels
- Lift Tickets and Snow Tubing Tickets for Massanutten
- Richmond Ballet Tickets for Romeo and Juliet
- Regal Cinema passes good for any of their theaters
- Gift Certificates from Circuit City and Ukrop's
- Dinner coupons for the Melting Pot, India House Restaurant, Café Gallegos, Tobacco Co., Bandito's Burrito Lounge, Robin Inn, Fazoli's, & Dot's Back Inn
- Dinners prepared by Marcelline Niemann and Anne Gray
- A Coffee Table Arrangement by Flowers by Natalie
- A Facial with Robin of Beyond the Fringe Hair Co.
- Janet Heckman's Beach House in Duck, NC for one week
- A Shirodhara Therapeutic Treatment (massage) from Nesbit Salon
- Book, "Why are all the black kids sitting together in the cafeteria?" from VOP
- Nicaraguan Print of the Last Supper and a poppyseed cake by Kathleen Kenney
- Matted photos by Jean Beck
- Large fragrant candle from the Alchemist
- Pottery serving platter from the 43rd St. Gallery
- Gift Certificates from Carytown Cleaners
- Eldridge Bagley Print from Cudahy's
- Theatre Virginia tickets to "Scandals"
- Tickets for the Richmond

- Braves Games and the Richmond Kickers games
- A deep tissue massage by Louise Shaia; a massage by Jo Ann Light
 - A Stained glass hanging by Dave Depp
 - Gift Certificate from Two Wheel Travel, tickets to Windy Hill Sports Complex
 - Pottery by David Camden and another by Mary Lynn Torchia
 - A Paul diPasquale sculpture
 - Small wooden child's play house by Barbara Myers
 - A Puppet Show by Heidi Rugg
 - Lunch Cruises on the Annabel Lee
 - Putt-Putt Golf and Games
 - Gift Certificate from Chesterfield Towne Center
 - Mary Munton's Homemade Candy, popcorn and nuts
 - Camera bag and Photo albums from Richmond Camera
 - Small oval rug from Cary Burke Carpets
 - CD's from Camelot Music
 - Beautiful decorative items from Robert Rentz Interiors
 - Dairy Queen Certificates
 - Homemade cookies by Elaine Ogburn
 - Photo cards by Mary Zoller
 - Necklace and earrings by Peggy O'Neill
 - Wooden breadbox handmade by a prison inmate by Jim and Dorcas Good
 - Hand-made furniture (jelly cupboard and coffee table) by Ken Willis, artist and executive director

of RPEC.

And many more items still to be confirmed!

Thanks to the many businesses and friends who make this event possible!

Call the Center now to donate an Item or an Adventure or to Volunteer your Services - 358-1958

Adelaide Folensbee Leaves

Even if you never met Adelaide Folensbee, her name is familiar to you for she has been an active member of RPEC for many years. While president of the Board, she was asked to serve as interim director. She returned to the Board to guide and cajole, prod and invite us to live up to our mission statement, to get the word out about our work and to secure financial support to keep the center going. She never asked us to do anything she wasn't willing to do along with us. Adelaide hosted many a committee meeting in her own home and she seldom missed a Peace Center event, including prayer vigils and demonstrations to protest the violence of unjust social policies in our city, country and world.

Adelaide has moved to Berryville, Virginia to be near family. We send her our gratitude and good wishes as she continues to "act justly, love tenderly and walk



Child Violence Lecture Scheduled at VCU

by Ken Willis

Columbine. Certainly by now we're all familiar with this name and the tragedy it represents. And, we have seen the response by school board members, law enforcement personnel, and elected officials. Almost without exception, following a violent incident like this in one of our nation's schools, the first steps taken have been the same, a call for metal detectors and beefed-up security on one hand, and a pointing of the finger at the entertainment and firearms industries on the other. All sorts of solutions have been offered, from tighter gun control to call in "hot lines"; even the posting of the Ten Commandments. What's wrong with this picture?

The simple fact is all of these suggestions are reactive, when what is really needed are programs and policies that are designed to be proactive, i.e., preventive, in nature. In other words, as a society we need to be about identifying and treating the causes of such violence, not merely engaging in efforts to contain them. Fortunately, there are individuals who recognize and who are working to address these issues. One of these, Cornell professor Dr. James Garbarino, will conduct a training event for parents and professionals who work with children on Tues., Oct. 26, from 9am - noon, at the VCU/Siegel Center. Described as an international expert on how violence affects the development of children, Garbarino is the author of a recently released book entitled *Lost Boys: Why Our Sons Turn Violent and How We Can Save Them*. His lecture, "What Children Can Tell Us About Violence and

What Adults Can Do To Help", promises to be stimulating and informative.

According to Louis B. Cei, Chairman of the Central Classification Board of the VA Dept. of Corrections, Garbarino's analysis of the problem of school violence is "sophisticated and constructive" and "differs from mainstream thinking about the issue." Cei notes that Garbarino points to a combination of psychological, social, and spiritual factors as causes for the violent behavior and, likewise, offers no single approach as a solution.

Dr. Novella Ruffin, Chair of the RPEC Board and an Extension Child Development Specialist at VA State University, has participated in a previous lecture/workshop with Garbarino and describes him as "a gifted, intelligent, and dynamic individual."

The seminar is being coordinated by the William Byrd Community House's Dept. of Community Development and will be videotaped for future use as an educational resource. In addition, .3 CEU credits will be offered through the VCU Dept. of

RPEC Annual Meeting

The 19th Annual Meeting of the membership of RPEC will be held on Friday, Nov. 5, at 7:30 p.m., in conjunction with the Annual Dinner and Auction. A slate of new Board members will be presented and the election will follow.

If you would like to nominate someone to serve on the Board or are interested yourself, call the office for an application and more information - 358-1958.

Social Responsibility Initiative in Virginia

by Jesse Rabinowitz

The Richmond Community for Ethics and Meaning (RCEM) has been discussing with two Virginia state delegates the sponsorship of some form of the Social Responsibility Initiative in the Virginia General Assembly in January 2000. At this point, we are talking about the possibility of a resolution by the Assembly to conduct a one-year study covering possibilities for the use of ethical impact reports or other social responsibility audits with companies doing business in Virginia. To this end, I need to gather all possible references, papers, book titles, people and organization connections, anything pertaining to the subject of social responsibility audits and their use with corporations, agencies, or governmental bodies, including anything that has been done in other places along these lines. Also, anything else that pertains to the topic of fostering more socially-responsible business practices is needed. So, anything you can suggest along these lines would be much appreciated. RCEM is having another meeting with our delegates in November, so I'd need to gather as much of these materials as I can in September and October. Also, I'd like to contact Thad Williamson, who wrote a fine proposal for ethical impact reports in Tikkun, so anyone with contact info, please send it to me. Thanks.

Jesse Rabinowitz can be reached at 6718 Patterson Ave., Richmond, 23226, or by E-mail at



Committee Meetings



Minutes of the Board of Directors

The Peace Center Board met on September 13 at the REA offices at 18th & Main. Tom Cleary was thanked for his contributions to the Center as he prepares to leave for New Mexico.

-John Gallini reported that the Center is in good financial position, considering we've just come through the summer months. He presented a draft budget for 2000. Liability Insurance has been added. Staff expense is a question as Jane Hare is ending her term with Mennonite Voluntary Service in December. Another volunteer will be recruited. The Major Donor Drive will begin later this month. John reviewed the process for this campaign.

-Ken Willis gave his Executive Director's report. He noted that he and Rev. Pratt at the Institute of Transformative Theology at VUU are in conversation re developing programs jointly with VUU and the Peace Center. It was announced that James Garbarino, a prominent author on males and violence, will be at VCU on Oct. 26.

-The Board Retreat Draft will be fleshed out by a small committee and finalized at the next Board meeting.

-Position Papers are being developed to provide a framework for the statements and actions of the Peace Center. All Board members will bring a list of topics to the next meeting to be prioritized. The membership will also be asked for input through the newsletter.

-Board nominations are needed. Tom Cleary, Linda

Heacock and Tawana Fortune will end their terms this year. Applications will be considered at the October meeting and elections held at the Annual Meeting on Nov. 5.

-A Death Penalty Moratorium Resolution developed by the Quixote Center was presented with a request for Board endorsement. Discussion centered on wording at the end which assumed that the death penalty could be administered fairly at some time in the future. Members were not comfortable with this and John Gallini will revise and bring back for next month's meeting. John will also begin developing a Position Paper on the death penalty.

-Ken Willis made a proposal that the Peace Center explore the possibility of taking over the ROSMY Thrift Store. A small committee will look at the pros and cons and report back at the next meeting.

-Ken asked the Board to consider supporting his proposal that the Peace Center be designated as an Extension Ministry with the United Methodist Church, so that after his ordination, he could be appointed to that ministry and continue to work at the Center. The Board is supportive and will take the necessary steps to accomplish this.

-Jane Hare reported on the Annual Dinner and Auction. Many items are being solicited and Board members were asked to help with this and volunteer for the actual event. Tickets will be distributed later this month. Sarah Huggins

reported that the Garden Party cleared over \$900 and the Yard Sale about \$450.

Announcements: Dismantling Racism Workshop - October 15-17 in Charlottesville, Va. Call the Center if interested.

CCRC Training for Trainers - Oct. 1 & 2 and Oct. 22 & 23

The Board noted that Adelaide Folensbee, former Interim Director, Board member and active participant with the Peace Center, has moved to Berryville, Va. A Peace Lily will be sent to her new home on behalf of the Board.

-The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 11, 6:00 p.m. at the REA offices.

Program Committee Meeting

The Program Committee met on September 2.

-Articles for the October Newsletter were reviewed.

-John Gallini reported on the new issues pages on the Peace Center Web Site.

-A Witness for Peace speaker, Irma Graciela Azmitia Dorantes, will present a program on October 4, 7:00 at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

-Jeff Winder reported on a Jubilee 2000 campaign to break the chains of debt among developing nations. School children will make paper chains to highlight this effort.

-Ken Willis is exploring a program on racial diversity that would acknowledge the many different races in our community.

-Jeff is coordinating groups going to Ft. Benning, Ga. for the Close the School of the Americas Rally in November.

Committee Meetings

Continued from Page 9

Conflict Resolution Committee

The Conflict Resolution Committee met on August 25.

-The Committee reviewed several publicity pieces re Peace Center activities.

-Marilyn Robertson and Don Ayers reported on the Alternatives to Violence Project workshops in the area correctional institutions.

-Christine Poulsen and Jennifer Swinson are new certified AVP trainers.

-Dennis Shannon will be the new coordinator at Pocahontas.

-Ruth Dahlke's contributions were recognized and appreciated.

-Maggie Allen Morris spoke of possible interaction between the Richmond and DC area CRC offices, coordinating trainings and resources.

-CCRC T for T will be offered on two weekends in October - 1 & 2 and 22 & 23.

-The Trainer's Gathering is scheduled for Oct. 3 from 4-7 p.m. at St. Peter's Catholic Church at 8th and Grace. Jack Richford will make a presentation on Aikido. Maggie will share trainers manuals and all are invited to bring information and learnings from past experiences.

-Shirletta Highsmith gave birth to a new baby boy - Congratulations!

-Ken Willis reported on a project with Barksdale Theatre, using drama as a means for teaching conflict resolution in the schools. Carol McMurray and Maggie Allen

Nunca Mas! Never Again!

by Jeff Winder

Join us for the 10th anniversary commemoration of the Jesuit massacre in El Salvador and for a vigil and nonviolent action to close the School of the Americas. November 19 - 21, 1999 at Fort Benning, GA

Activists from around Virginia will band together and travel to Fort Benning to call for an end to the training of dictators, torturers and murderers with our tax dollars. This year's gathering is expected to draw 10,000 people, 5,000 of whom will cross the line onto base property in an act of nonviolent solidarity with the people of Latin America.

A nonviolence training will be held in Richmond prior to the event. This session is strongly recommended for anyone planning to attend and required for those who plan to cross the line. the training will be on Monday 11/15 from 6 - 9 p.m. The location is to be announced. To register for the training, to find out about carpool or expense sharing information or with any other questions call Jeff

Creative Conflict Resolution Training for Trainers

October 1-2 and 22-23
First Mennonite Church
2350 Staples Mill Road
Richmond, Virginia

Call RPEC
358-1958

Annual Survey Results Once Again Show Virginians In Favor of Alternatives to the Death Penalty

by John Gallini

For the 7th consecutive year survey results from the Quality of Life in Virginia Poll show that Virginians prefer an alternative to the death penalty. When surveyors asked 514 respondents whether they supported the death penalty, 74 % agreed. This is the lowest percentage that responded in favor of the death penalty in the 7 years. For the second consecutive year nearly 20% opposed the death penalty which is the highest recorded in the 7 years of polling..

But when respondents were asked their views if there were the alternative of Life, with no possibility of parole for a minimum of 25 years combined with restitution to the victims' family, 54.8% agreed with the alternative and 40.5 % disagreed. "What this survey shows us is that once again, for the 7th consecutive year, Virginians prefer an alternative to the death penalty", said Henry Heller, director of Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. "If the public doesn't really want the death penalty why are a large majority of our legislators pushing it down our throats?"

Virginia has executed ten people thus far this year. Virginia will most likely break its record 13 executions of last year. Virginia is first in the nation in executions per capita with populations of over 1

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

- Every Sunday** **Food Not Bombs, Richmond <Meal Sharing**, 4:00 P.M. in Monroe Park. Hotline # 359-5948 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 Sat.** **Pax Christi Peace Community** - Call Elaine Ogburn for details - 320-4514.
- Every 2n Mon.** **Virginia People of Faith for Alternatives to the Death Penalty**, 4:45 PM
Catholic Diocese Conference Room, Floyd and Cherry, Kathleen Kenney, 359-5661

UPCOMING EVENTS

- October 1-2; 22-23** **Creative Conflict Resolution Training for Trainers** - See article page 5.
- October 4** **Irma Graciela Azmitia Dorantes Talk on "Peace and Reconciliation in Guatemala"** - 7:00 P.M., Wednesday at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart. Call Jeff Winder at 457-2631.
- October 10** **Crop Walk** - Sunday in three Richmond locations. Contact Jon Barton at (804) 355-4642.
- October 15-17** **Dismantling Racism Workshop** - In Charlottesville, VA. Begins Friday at 1:00 P.M. and ends Sunday with lunch. Sponsored by the Virginia Organizing Project. For information call Cathy Woodson (804) 261-7497.
- October 19** **Scheduled execution of Jason Joseph** - Prayer vigil in Richmond at St. Peter's Catholic Church, 8th and Grace, Wednesday at 8:30 PM.
- October 20** **Mariam Wright Edelman Talk** - Wednesday, 7:30 P.M. Executive Director of the Children's Defense Fund will speak at U of R, Modlin Center for the Arts.
- October 26** **Dr. James Garbarino Talk, "Children and Violence"** - 9:00 A.M. at VCU Siegel Center.
- October 27** **Urvashi Vaid Talk, "Identity and Its Discontents: The Virtue and Limits of GLBT Organizing"**. Wednesday, 7:30 P.M. The former Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force will speak. See UR calendar for details.
- October 28** **Scheduled execution of Michael Williams** - Service at Richmond Friends Meeting at 8:30 pm
- October 30-31** **RESULT 1999 Regional Conference** - Mary Baldwin College Richmond Center, noon Saturday to 3:00 PM Sunday. Contact Fay Kelle, 9 Millhaven Dr., Richmond, VA 23233. 740-8912
- November 5** **RPEC Annual Dinner and Auction** - Ginter Park Presbyterian Church (See article)

OVERVIEW OF THE VIRGINIA ORGANIZING PROJECT (VOP)

by
Don S. Ayers

The Virginia Organizing project (VOP) is a statewide grassroots organization dedicated to challenging injustice by empowering people in local communities to address issues that affect the quality of their lives. As a non-partisan organization, VOP especially encourages the participation of those, who have traditionally had little or no voice in our society, By building relationships with diverse individuals and groups throughout the state of Virginia, VOP strives to get them to work together, democratically and non-violently, for change.

The Richmond Peace Education Center is an affiliate member of VOP. Other affiliate members are the Appalachian Peace Education Center (APEC), Public Housing Association of Residents (PHAR), Tenants and Workers' Support Committee, Virginians for Justice, and Virginia Forest Watch. Lee County and Wythe County have VOP Chapters in their localities. Other chapters are being developed.

VOP is involved in a variety of activities and projects, Relationship building with other groups, issue campaigns, providing resources to groups and/or individuals interested in becoming, involved in working toward long-term change, a VOP "Action Alert" system, trainings and workshops, and the publication of a quarterly newsmagazine are some of these activities.

VOP puts a high priority in working cooperatively with a wide variety of diverse groups and communities. In addition to continuing to support the issue work of VOP chapters and affiliates, VOP is working on a statewide economic reform package; living wage, earned Income Credit, removing the sales tax on food, encouraging accountability of the banking industry and the Federal Reserve Bank, and promoting statewide policies that would bring a better balance to the tax system. VOP also has an E-mail/fax action alert system that gives people the chance to act effectively and quickly on issues that concern them. Resources such as cassettes on organizing skills, a lending library (videos, audio cassettes, books, publication) and a VOP Web Site- <http://www.virginia-organizing-org>, are also available at VOP's state office in Charlottesville, VOP also conducts workshops and training sessions on dismantling racism, understanding the economy, community organizing and leadership development skills, and confronting heterosexism and classism, Virginia organizing is a quarterly newsmagazine that includes articles from groups in Virginia, an "Organizing Toolbox," informative articles on statewide issues, resources, and events.

VOP's address, telephone, and fax numbers are 703 Concord Avenue, Charlottesville, VA 22903-5208- telephone- (804) 984-4655; fax: (804) 984-2803.



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