

# rpecNEWS

The Newsletter of the Richmond Peace Education Center

November 1999

## **RPEC Board Adopts Position Paper on the Death Penalty**

### **Resolution Calling for Moratorium on Executions Follows**

*The RPEC Board has begun to articulate the organization's positions on a number of issues of concern to our work. The first of these dealt with "Nonviolence and the Schools" (see July, 1999, rpecNEWS). At the October meeting of the RPEC Board, a position paper on the death penalty was considered and approved by consensus. That paper is presented here. Subsequently, the Board approved a resolution calling for a moratorium on executions, which can be found on page 4.*

### **RPEC Position Paper on the Death Penalty**

(Adopted by RPEC Board,  
10/11/99)

Since 1976, Virginia has become the 2nd most active killing state. Only Texas, with a far larger population, has executed more prisoners than Virginia. (**Note:** On July 2, 1976, the United States Supreme Court handed down its decision in *Gregg v. Georgia*, which allowed the death penalty to resume after a decade-long moratorium on executions. The

*majority of the Court held that the potential for unfairness which had been a hallmark of capital punishment in the past had been sufficiently ameliorated by the enactment of recent laws which guided its imposition.)*

#### **Our Mission:**

To advocate for just economic and political policies locally and globally, to promote nonviolent means of conflict resolution, to recognize and dismantle racism, to work in partnership with other groups committed to justice and peace.

#### **Facts Related to the Use of the**

#### **Mary Catherine McCue Wins RPEC Essay Contest**

The 1999 Richmond Peace Education Center Essay Contest winner in the lower elementary grades is Mary Catherine McCue, a third grader from Tuckahoe Elementary School.

Her winning essay, "Playing for Peace", is printed on page 5. Congratulations Mary Catherine.

#### **Death Penalty in Virginia:**

- Virginia introduced the death penalty to the "New World" by hanging George Kendall in the early 1600's
- Virginia has carried out at least 1,355 executions in its history, more than any other state.
- Virginia has executed more women and the youngest children of any state in the nation.
- Between October of 1908 and March of 1962, Virginia used the electric chair to execute 236 people. 201 of those were black males; 34 were white males; one, Virginia Christian, was a 17-year-old black female. During that period, the youngest, Percy Ellis, was executed at the age of 16.
- In February of 1951, Virginia executed 8 men in a 72-hour period. All 8 men were black and 7 were executed for the rape of one white woman. These seven were known as the Martinsville Seven.

(Continued on page 3)

## Local Artists to be Featured at November 5 Fundraiser

The works of a number of local artists will be available for sale at the Peace Center's 19th Annual Dinner and Auction.

-Paul di Pasquale, noted sculptor, has donated a small casting of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s head, the model for a bust which is in process.

-Ken Willis, RPEC Executive Director, will offer wooden jelly cupboards and a coffee table. Ken's work has won a number of awards and been displayed in many juried shows.

-Peggy O'Neill creates unique jewelry which is a popular item each year.

-Robin Cage again brings her exquisite pottery, as does Cindy Walker, Mary Lynn Torchia and David Camden.

-An art collage by Ron Lee will be a first-time offering for this annual event.

-Mary Jane D'Arville is donating one hour of Harp music for your special event.

A number of new items have been received since the last newsletter. See page 9 and make up your shopping list. We appreciate all our generous donors!

Come join us at the Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, 3601 Seminary Avenue,

## Christian Peacemaker Congress five

### From "Redemptive" Violence to Active Non-Violence

### December 27-30, 1999

Luther Place Memorial Church  
Washington, D.C.

*Sponsored by Christian Peacemaker Teams and New Call to Peacemaking*

### Keynote Speakers

**Kathy Kelly**

National Coordinator of Voices in the Wilderness

**Anne Montgomery**

Co-Editor of "Swords into Plowshares"

**For More Information,  
Call the Peace Center - 358-1958**

Christian Peacemaker Teams is an initiative among Mennonite and Church of the Brethren congregations and Friends Meetings that supports violence reduction efforts around the world.

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## **RPEC Board Adopts Position Paper on the Death Penalty**

*(Continued from page 1)*

- In Virginia, juveniles as young as 16 can be executed.
- Virginia allows the executions of the mentally retarded, the severely brain damaged and the mentally ill. At least 7 such mentally handicapped prisoners have been executed in Virginia since 1976.
- Nationwide, 82% of those put to death had been convicted of murdering a white person even though people of color are the victims in more than half of all homicides.
- About 90% of those persons facing capital charges cannot afford their own attorney.
- In Virginia, death row prisoners are prohibited from having any court consider evidence discovered more than 21 days after trial.

*“After a murder, victims' families face two things: a death and a crime. At these times, families need*

*help to cope with their grief and loss, and support to heal their hearts and rebuild their lives. From experience, we know that revenge is not the answer. The answer lies in reducing violence, not causing more death. The answer lies in supporting those who grieve for their lost loved ones, not creating more grieving families. It is time we break the cycle of violence. To those who say society must take a life for a life, we say: "not in our name." - Marie Deans, founder of Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation*

### **Our Position on the Use of the Death Penalty:**

- We share the concern of all citizens of this Commonwealth about the impact of crime and violence on our lives. We grieve for the suffering of victims of crime and their families and friends. We also acknowledge the suffering of and grieve with the families of those who have been executed.
- We affirm that the residents of our communities are entitled to protection from those who would do harm, and we insist that offenders should be held

accountable.

- We affirm that any use of the death penalty by the State is an unnecessarily violent response to crime and we seek the abolition of all use of the death penalty.
- We believe that, not only is the death penalty not a deterrent to crime, but further, that the resort to violence by the State makes the teaching of the value of nonviolent approaches to conflict resolution more difficult. We believe that both justice and safety can be achieved through alternatives to the death penalty, for example: a life sentence with no possibility of parole. We also believe that alternatives which facilitate restitution to the victim's family and to society could be appropriate.
- We agree with the teachings of many faith communities, as well as national and international human rights organizations, which hold that the death penalty is morally wrong and has not been nor could be administered fairly or justly.
- We call upon our sisters and brothers in our community, as well as our elected leaders at every level,

## **An Interview With Elie Wiesel**

*Below is a portion of an interview with Elie Wiesel in INTERVIEW June 29, 1996 Sun Valley, Idaho.*

“What lessons can we draw for young people ....?”

“How do you maintain faith in the

face of the circumstances that you've endured in your lifetime? How do you keep hope and optimism alive? How do you keep going? Well, I could answer you by saying, "What is the alternative?" But it's not enough. In truth, I have learned something. The enemy wanted to be the one who speaks, and I felt, I still feel, we must see to it that the victim should be the one who speaks and is

heard. Therefore, all my adult life, since I began my life as an author, or as a teacher, I always try to listen to the victim. In other words, if I remain silent, I may help my own soul but, because I do not help other people, I poison my soul. Silence never helps the victim. It only helps the victimizer. Indifference means there is a kind of apathy that sets in and you no longer appreciate

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## **A Resolution of the Richmond Peace Education Center Calling for a Moratorium on Executions in the Commonwealth of Virginia and Throughout the United States**

WHEREAS there is ample evidence that the death penalty is applied in a racist manner. For example:

- In 1987, in *McCleskey v. Kemp*, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to act on data demonstrating the continuing reality of racial bias.
- In 1990, the U.S. General Accounting Office reported "a pattern of evidence indicating racial disparities in charging, sentencing and imposition of the death penalty."
- Nationwide, 82% of those put to death had been convicted of murdering a white person even though people of color are the victims in more than half of all homicides. (Ref. VADP)
- The U.S. Congress has failed repeatedly to pass the Racial Justice Act, which would allow prisoners to challenge their death sentences using standards normal in civil racial discrimination cases.

WHEREAS death sentences are reserved for the poor:

- About 90% of those persons facing capital charges cannot afford their own attorney. (Ref. VADP)
- No state, including Virginia, has met standards developed by the American Bar Association (ABA) for appointment, performance and compensation of counsel for indigent prisoners.

WHEREAS prisoner appeals have been severely curtailed, increasing the risk of imprisonment and execution of innocent people:

- In a series of rulings since 1991, the Supreme Court has drastically restricted the rights of death row prisoners to appeal their convictions and death sentences in federal courts, even in cases where prisoners present compelling evidence of innocence.
- In 1996, new legislation drastically limited federal court review of death penalty appeals and gutted public funding of legal aid services for death row prisoners.
- In Virginia, death row prisoners are prohibited from having any court consider evidence discovered more than 21 days after trial.

WHEREAS the American Bar Association has concluded that administration of the death penalty is "a haphazard maze of unfair practices with no internal consistency" and has called for a moratorium on executions.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Richmond Peace Education Center calls on the Governor and our state representatives, and President Clinton and our representatives in Congress, to enact and adopt legislation imposing a moratorium on executions. Be it further resolved that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the Governor, our state representatives, President Clinton, and our representatives in Congress.

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## PLAYING FOR PEACE

Mary Catherine McCue  
3rd Grade - Tuckahoe Elementary School  
May 1, 1999

Winner of the 1999 RPEC Essay Contest  
for the Lower Grades

There are a lot of conflicts in the sports I play. In basketball someone may shoot when the timer is on zero and get it in the basket. The other team is going to start a conflict saying, "they don't get that point!" Soccer has lots of conflicts, but let's only talk about one. Let's say someone had the ball, then someone on the other team comes up and pulls on their shirt. The referee would call that. Then the person on the other team would start arguing with the referee. Of course all you soccer fans know that that person would get a card. In running and bike riding a conflict might begin by kicking someone off their lane. If this was bike riding, someone would really get hurt. In Monopoly a conflict can start by stealing someone's money. Conflicts in Monopoly can also start by buying something someone else really wants. That is how conflicts start in sports and games.

A resolution is about how you solve problems. A fair resolution is when each player gets a fair part. Let's talk about it now. In basketball you can solve it by letting the person get a foul shot and trying to get the ball again. In soccer you can do it the same way. In track and bike riding you can solve it by racing on a track that is well marked. In Monopoly you solve it by thinking ahead the next time before you make the move.

How can individuals and nations use these lessons to handle conflicts and settle disputes? My examples from sports and games give us three rules for solving conflicts fairly. They are:

1. Everyone gets something.
2. The rules are clear.
3. PLAN!! By planning you may not win today, but you probably will win tomorrow.

There are many sad conflicts going on in the world right now. These sad conflicts going on in the world right now are: crises in Kosovo, "The Troubles" in Northern Ireland, problems in the Middle East, problems in Africa, "modern day" pirates. Here in our own country we also have some problems. There are shootings in Colorado, shootings and guns in schools, kids making bombs, robberies, different people don't get along. Also, in families there are some troubles. Here are some of these troubles: child abuse, parents fighting, yelling, and divorce. I think we should solve these problems because God would be happier with us. Also, people will be happier with each other.

Here's how we can learn from games and sports. People can vote fairly and everyone gets something. There have to be good rules and laws. By planning you may not win today but you probably will win something tomorrow.

## Values, Religion and Leadership Series at UR

This year's lecture series sponsored by the University of Richmond Jepson School of leadership got underway on September 22 with an opening conversation that featured NPR's Lynn Neary, Dr. Azizah al-Hibri from UR, Dr. Jack Spiro who is director of the Center for Judaic Studies at VCU, Rev. Ben Campbell from Richmond Hill, and Dr. John William Kinney who is dean of the School of Theology at Virginia Union - and a capacity crowd at the Camp Theater.

The discussion focused on the role of religion in public life, and while there was much that all agreed upon, there were also points of disagreement. Among the many issues addressed was that of the teaching of values in the public schools. Dr. Kinney offered an example of how a teacher, by example, could teach the value of celebrating diversity. Dr. Spiro suggested that in this country we have inherited a set of civic virtues from the founders of our nation, and that these could be accepted by all. Dr. al-Hibri shared her concern that the values of faith traditions outside of the Judeo-Christian tradition were poorly understood which led to discrimination. It was an interesting beginning to what promises to be another stimulating series.

Coming speakers include:

- Marion Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund will speak on October 20.
- On November 17, Bill Moyers, journalist and producer of several TV series dealing with religious values, is featured.
- The Nobel Laureate, Elie Wiesel will speak on December 1.
- Sister Helen Prejean, anti-death penalty activist, will speak on January 26.

We are truly fortunate that the Jepson Leadership Forum continues to bring such thoughtful speakers to our community. I suggest that you plan

## VOP Sponsoring Workshop on Sexual Orientation

The Virginia Organizing Project is sponsoring a workshop on Sexual Orientation issues on November 12-14 at Hungry Mother State Park in Marion, VA.

The workshop will be held in cooperation with Virginians for Justice. It begins on Friday, November 12 at 3:00 p.m. and ends with lunch on Sunday, November 14. For more information, please call VOP at (804) 984-4655.

## "Fill the Field"

by Tim Stanton

Virginia People of Faith for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (VPOF) organized and promoted last year's "Fill the Field," an attempt to get a lot of people to one selected execution vigil at the Greensville Correctional Center. VPOF has selected the November 9 killing of Thomas Royal for this year's FTF. The Royal execution, barring any stays of any scheduled executions, will be Virginia's record-breaking 14th of the year.

Many of you came last year in lieu of your regular local vigil. We're hoping you can do so again this year. Last year some local vigils were cancelled, and some were just streamlined to let attendees go to FTF. Either is OK with us. We are absolutely not asking you to cancel your traditional local vigils.

We had 75 people last year, and hope to have more this year - and also greater media coverage. In addition a more formalized service will be planned. If you have any traditional elements in your local services that you'd like included in FTF, please let me know.

More is planned, including a website that will be live within the next week at:

<http://www.richmondva.org/ftf99>

Note: In Richmond, there will be no execution vigil on November 9.

We hope everyone will travel to



**For December Newsletter  
November 10**

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## FCNL Statement on East Timor

### VIOLENCE AND SUFFERING CONTINUE IN EAST TIMOR

September 27, 1999

*The following is a statement of Friends Committee on National Legislation. It is reprinted with their permission. Below are their postal and web addresses.*

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Despite the recent entry of multinational military force into East Timor, the anti-independence militias in East Timor, supported and armed by the Indonesian security forces, are continuing to destroy villages and homes as they retreat through the countryside. Since August 30, when 78 percent of the East Timor electorate voted for independence in a UN-sponsored referendum, an as yet untold number of people have been killed and an estimated three-fourths of the population of 800,000 has been forced to flee from their homes and villages. Elements of the Indonesian military have been directly involved in this systematic campaign of intimidation, terror, and murder. Atrocities and crimes against humanity have been committed.

#### What is the FCNL?

*FCNL, the Friends Committee on National Legislation, is a Quaker lobby in the public interest. FCNL seeks to bring the concerns, experiences and testimonies of the Religious Society of Friends to bear on policy decisions in the nation's capital. FCNL's small staff works with a nationwide network of thousands of Quakers and like-minded people to advocate social and economic justice, peace, and good government. Since its founding in 1943, FCNL has witnessed from a basis of spiritual and ethical purpose, as we seek change in both national policy and*

Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975, as the Portuguese government ended its colonial rule. Since then, the East Timorese people have been involved in a desperate struggle for independence. Over 200,000 East Timorese people died in this struggle prior to August 30. Many were killed or assassinated by Indonesian forces and anti-independence paramilitary groups, but most died from starvation-related illnesses due to the refusal of Indonesian forces to permit food and medicine to be delivered to areas controlled by the pro-independence militia. The UN never recognized the legitimacy of the Indonesian occupation, but neither did it

During this time, the U.S.

government has chosen to ignore the plight of the East Timorese people in favor of strengthening its relations with the geopolitically strategic government in Jakarta. The invasion of East Timor occurred within days of a state visit to Indonesia by President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger. Reportedly, when the idea of the occupation was suggested, no objection was made. Since 1962, the U.S. government has provided grants for military weapons and training exceeding \$316 million, financed more than \$377 million in weapons sales to the Indonesian military, and, since 1988, licensed over \$130 million in commercial weapons sales. The U.S. and Indonesian militaries have developed closer ties through these programs and through joint exercises. Also since 1962, the U.S. has provided over \$3.7 billion in bilateral economic assistance, and, recently, has supported multi-billion dollar loan packages to the government of Indonesia through the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Throughout its tenure, the Clinton Administration, like others before it, has continued the policy of ignoring the abysmal human rights record of the Indonesian military in East Timor and elsewhere in the archipelago in favor of strengthening economic and military ties with a geopolitically

*(Continued on page 8)*

## **VIOLENCE AND SUFFERING CONTINUE IN EAST TIMOR**

*(Continued from page 7)*

strategic partner. In recent months, numerous appeals have been made by human rights activists to the Administration to use its influence to strengthen the UN's mission in East Timor (UNAMET) and to help prevent the escalation of violence. However, instead, the Administration chose to constrain the UN options, leaving all options open for the Indonesian military. The Administration acted only after the violence exploded following the referendum. One wonders how much bloodshed could have been avoided if the Administration had taken notice and acted months ago.

When the Administration finally acknowledged the gravity of the crisis, it suspended all military and economic assistance to Indonesia and supported a UN Security Council resolution authorizing the deployment of a multinational, Australian-led, military force to secure peace in East Timor. Diplomatic pressure by the U.S. and other governments compelled the Indonesian government to "invite" the multinational force into the country to bring an end to the violence. Since many of the militia and some Indonesian security units have threatened to fight against the multinational force, the UN Security Council authorized this force "to take all necessary measures to fulfill its mandate" under the terms of Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Once the peace is secured, the UN Security Council will establish a UN-led peacekeeping mission, under the

terms of Chapter VI of the UN Charter.

(Under the provisions of "Chapter VII," the UN Security Council may authorize and call upon member countries to respond to "threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression" by any means necessary, including military force, to restore international peace and security. Under the provisions of "Chapter VI," the UN Security Council may establish a peacekeeping mission that would be deployed

to assist in the pacific settlement of a dispute. It might involve activities such as monitoring elections or truces or providing a buffer between parties in conflict. Under Chapter VI, the use of force is not authorized except for self-defense.)

Rep. Kennedy (RI) has introduced "The East Timor Self-Determination Act" (HR 2895), which would lock into law the temporary sanctions that the Clinton Administration has imposed through administrative action. The bill would "impose an immediate suspension of assistance to the government of Indonesia [including all military aid, weapons sales and transfers, and training] until the results of the August 30, 1999, vote in East Timor have been implemented." The bill would require that Indonesia ensure a safe and secure environment in East Timor, allow humanitarian organizations to operate freely, and provide for the safe return of refugees to their homes. The bill calls upon the President to work with other countries to take similar measures and to develop a comprehensive multilateral

## **FAVAN Pledge of Non-violence Put into Action**

by Linda Heacock

The "Pledge of Nonviolence" concept of the Institute for Peace & Justice's Families Against Violence Advocacy Network (FAVAN) has seen some practical and meaningful application for students and their families in a Virginia Beach school.

Readers of rpecNews may recall the front page article by Jeff Winder in the September issue about a young middle school student, 13 year old Amanda Stanley, of Virginia Beach, who wanted her school to take some worthwhile action in response to the shootings at Columbine High School last Spring. Amanda initiated an effort to organize students at her school to stage a media-covered demonstration in honor of those killed, and to sign pledges against violence and racism. These events were followed up with invitations for student presentations to 9 classrooms and to address a public forum organized by the local school board, among other related activities. (Refer to Sept. '99 rpecNEWS for more details.)

I have since learned through the Institute for Peace & Justice's office in St. Louis that the pledge signed by 365 students at Amanda's school (pop. 1400) was an adaptation (with permission) of FAVAN's "Family/School Pledge of Nonviolence". This was a creative example of how the Pledge and related FAVAN resources and curricula can be incorporated into programs and activities at schools or other

*(Continued on page 9)*



## **More Enticing Items for the Annual Dinner and Auction - November 5, 1999.**

**Thanks to our generous contributors!**

- \* Massage by Mind-Body Medical Center, Retreat Hospital
- \* Paul Fleisher is donating CD's and books
- \* 2 18-hole greens fees certificates at The Hollows Golf Club
- \* A Hammock from Twin Oaks Community
- \* Peace Beanie Baby by Mary Jane Gerow
- \* Gift Certificate from Davis & Main
- \* One-hour Therapeutic Massage by Pat O'Neill
- \* Two tickets for "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" by Theatre IV
- \* Father Christmas Figurine, small Sled and Original Note Cards by BetsyHellenberg
- \* Two tickets for a day at Busch Gardens
- \* An Art Collage by Ron Lee
- \* Pottery by Cindy Walker
- \* Handknit Sweater by Jan Sisson
- \* 4-Volume Set of "Lincoln - The War Years" by Carl Sandburg and a 14-Volume Set of Classics by John & Nancy Gallini, also items from Haiti.
- \* Car Pool Gift Certificate for wash and lube service
- \* One hour of Harp Music by Mary Jane D'Arville
- \* Customized gift wrapping by Nancy Riddlemoser
- \* Lakeside Cottage in Vermont for one week by Jerry Carney
- \* Neon Clock and Plasma Lamp donated by JoMoCo Studio
- \* Candleholder by Sycamore Pewtersmiths
- \* CD's by Plan 9
- \* Decorative wooden letter holder by Decorum
- \* A Floor Lamp from Mongrel's
- \* Two Tickets for the Richmond Symphony
- \* Personalized birthday cake to serve 12 by Karen Mann of Baker's Mann
- \* Wooden picture frame & carpet sweeper by Harold & Deborah Houghton
- \* Handpainted Teakwood Cane from Tanzania by Don Ayers
- \* Handwoven basket from Uganda & Peruvian Candle holder by Ten Thousand Villages
- \* A Feldenkrais Lesson Certificate from Cas Overton
- \* Pysanky Egg by Ruth Anne Young
- \* Two paintings by West African artist and an African dress by Marilyn Robertson
- \* Two Gift Certificates for \$25 from Fast Frame

and More to Come . . .

Call now for reservations - 358-1958.

## **FAVAN Pledge of Non-violence Put into Action**

*(Continued from page 8)*

organizations who work with youth and families. (See previous articles on FAVAN and the Pledge of Nonviolence in Sept. and Oct. '99 rpecNEWS.)

By the end of the school term last June, Amanda and her fellow organizers had plans to continue spreading their message of nonviolence into the current school year - not just by adding more numbers to the list of signatures, but through continuing to educate students about the meaning and responsibility inherent in this type of commitment. This is a good demonstration of how the Pledge of Nonviolence idea can be a catalyst for an ongoing program or theme.

The Peace Center, through the Conflict Resolution Committee, is exploring avenues in which to offer the Pledge of Nonviolence concept and related programs. We are looking at more effective ways to reach out in response to the needs of our community. Any creative ideas and/or knowledge of particular groups - schools, agencies, religious organizations, etc. - who you, as supporters of the work of the Center, think might benefit from this type of approach, would be most appreciated!

For copies of the Family or School Pledge of Nonviolence and other FAVAN literature, contact the Peace Center office or Linda Heacock (752-6752).

*The Pledge...is a 7-point commitment for families to become*



## Committee Meetings



### Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Peace Center met on Monday, October 11 at the Richmond Education Association Offices at 6:00 p.m.

-John Gallini reported that financially the Center is on budget. No grant funds have been received, but contributions are up.

-The Major Donor Campaign has begun with letters going out in late September. Follow-up calls will be made by Board members in the coming weeks.

-Board Retreat Report draft was presented and accepted. This will be a working paper for the Board and continue to be on the agenda. A Public Relations Committee will be created and Membership and Transforming Relationships will be revitalized. Committee members will be recruited at the Annual Dinner and Auction.

-A Position Paper on the Death Penalty was adopted. It is included in this newsletter.

-A Death Penalty Moratorium Resolution was approved and will be sent to the Quixote Center where it originated.

-Contacts with various volunteer organizations have been made as the Center seeks a person to take Jane Hare's position when she leaves in December.

-Nominations for new Board members were discussed. The slate will be presented at the Annual Meeting on November 5.

-Tickets to the Annual Dinner and Auction were distributed to Board members. Volunteers were recruited for the event.

-Upcoming events: Marian

Wright Edelman will speak at the University of Richmond on October 20 at 7:30; Elie Wiesel on December 1.

-The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 8, 6:00 p.m. at the REA offices, 18th & Main.

### Conflict Resolution Committee

The Conflict Resolution Committee met on September 23 at the Ecumenical Resource Center.

-Finalized plans and arrangements for the Trainers Gathering on Sunday, October 3, at St. Peter's Church. Trainers will be called to remind them of this date.

-Upcoming trainings were discussed. Ken will write a general proposal for a workshop at Univ. of Richmond, Conference on Service and Leadership Development. RPEC will have a table at the conference.

-Training for Trainers is still on the agenda for 10/1 & 2.

-Next meeting is set for Wednesday, October 27, 7:00 p.m., ERC.

### Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee met on September 8, at First Mennonite Church.

-Church & individual contributions are above budget.

-Garden Party raised just above \$900.

-Arrangements for the Annual Dinner and Auction were discussed.

-Yard Sale is set for Saturday, Sept. 11 at Ginter Park UMC.

-Plans were made for the Major Donor Campaign. Board members will be asked to volunteer

to make follow-up calls.

-Janet Heckman and family have volunteered to make a quilt for RPEC's 20th anniversary auction. This was enthusiastically approved.

-An Expense Budget was reviewed and will be presented to the Board on 9/13. A Development Plan will be on the next meeting's agenda.

-The idea of taking over the ROSMY Thrift Store was discussed.

Committee's reaction was mixed; it will be presented to the Board.

-Next Meeting is set for Wednesday, October 26, 7:00 p.m. at First Mennonite Church.

### Program Committee

The Program Committee met on October 7 at the Catholic Diocese offices.

-Articles for the November Newsletter were discussed, as well as calendar items.

-Suggestions for Web Page Issues were reviewed. A Racism section will be developed.

-New program ideas were discussed - Jubilee 2000 actions, SOA trip and a visit by General Butler - no response yet.

-The Program Committee budget was reviewed. The number of

international programs directly sponsored by the Peace Center will be reduced as University of Richmond and World Affairs Council are offering a variety of such programs.

Next meeting is set for November 1, 2:30 p.m. at the Catholic Diocese offices.

**November '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 2nd 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**

- November 5**      **RPEC Annual Dinner and Auction - Ginter Park Presbyterian Church**, 6:00 PM
- November 7**      **"The Middle East", Dr. Emory C. Bogle, UR Faculty Member** - 2:30 PM, Jepson Hall Room 118
- November 7**      **Bud Welch will speak in Charlottesville.** For info call 804-961-6278.
- November 12-14**      **VOP Workshop on Sexual Orientation**; November 12-14 at Hungry Mother State Park in Marion, VA. For more information, please call VOP at (804) 984-4655.
- November 17**      **Jepson Leadership Forum, Bill Moyers, journalist, speaker.** 7:30 pm,
- November 19-21**      **Actions at the Gate of Fort Benning, GA**, to call for the closing of the School of the Americas. ( Contact Jeff Winder, 359-5661)
- December 1**      **Jepson Leadership Forum, Elie Wiesel, Nobel laureate, speaker.** 7:30 pm,
- December 9**      **Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy Annual Meeting** (10 AM - Noon),  
**Presentation by Ched Myers** from 1:30 - 3:30 (Contact Fletcher Lowe, 643-2474)
- December 9**      **Ched Myers will speak as part of the Sowers of Justice program on Jubilee** - 6:00 PM  
pot luck supper, 7:30 program (Contact Michael Stone, 359-5661)

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

## Consumer's Corner

### Responding to the "Big Guys"

by John Gallini

This month I would like to bring two consumer campaigns to your attention:

- The first is the two-year **Rainforest Action Network** campaign to get **The Home Depot** to stop selling old growth wood products. A full page ad in the 10/8/99 New York Times thanks The Home Depot "for recognizing that ancient trees are worth more in the forests than in their stores". In a bold policy turnaround, The Home Depot says it will stop selling wood products from endangered forests by the year 2002. You can help this campaign to grow by reminding other home product stores, such as Lowes and 84 Lumber, that you are aware of this step by Home Depot and hope that they will follow suit.
- The second is Co-op America's campaign to end sweatshops. Part of this campaign focuses on Wal-Mart: "As the largest retailer in the world, Wal-Mart has a unique ability to shape the industry. Unfortunately, the company is an industry leader in selling goods made in abysmal labor conditions." This year Co-op America is asking its members to encourage Wal-Mart to:
  - \* Provide full public disclosure of the factories and suppliers which make the products sold in their stores;
  - \* Ensure workers are paid a living wage;
  - \* Ensure the right of workers to organize.

Write to        Mr. David Glass, CEO  
                    Wal-Mart, 702 SW Eighth St.  
                    Bentonville, AR 72716-8611



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