

In this Issue

Going from Bad to Worse	1
Message from the RPEC Board Chair	2
Action Needed on Racial Profiling!!	3
BRING THEM HOME NOW!	4
Tax Day Reflections on War and Reparations	5
Domestic Violence Focus of October	6
PUBLIC ACTION, RECONCILIATION AND SOFT POWER	7
Diplomatic Initiatives Continue but No Peace for Zimbabwe	8
Consumers Corner	10
Calendar	11
Committee Reports	12

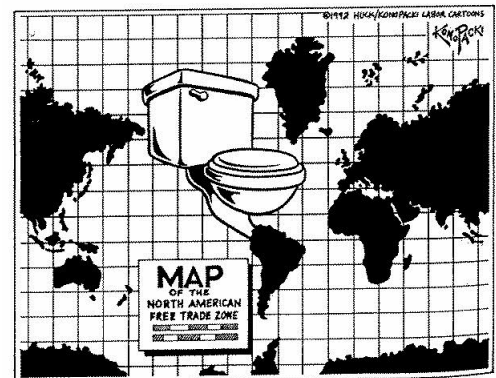
Going from Bad to Worse

Dave Depp

During the past decade, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the United States, Canada and Mexico has had disastrous socioeconomic results. Poverty has increased, working conditions have deteriorated, unions have weakened, small farmers forced off their land, public health laws undone and the environment more rapidly degraded, while the wealthy owners and investors in agribusiness and multinational corporations have grown richer.

NAFTA has encouraged the flight of high paying industrial jobs with benefits out of the U.S. into sweatshops across the border in Mexico. There, peasants fleeing farms made unprofitable by unfair U.S. agribusiness competition that benefits from government subsidies are employed at poverty wages while living in unhealthy slums.

NAFTA rules allow corporations to sue governments whose labor, environmental or other policies restrict their ability to reap profits. Such suits are heard in courts beyond the purview or control of any government. California has been sued because it tried to phase out the gas additive MTBE that is poisoning the state's ground water. Canada was successfully sued because it was banning a chemical linked to nervous system damage. Mexico was sued because it was trying to protect land and water from chemical contamination. The growth in corporate power under NAFTA's Chapter 11 has had a chilling effect on government policy-making as governments try to avoid costly lawsuits.



(Continued on page 6)

rpec NEWS

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Message from the RPEC Board Chair

Dear Friends,

I hope by the time you have received this that your power has been restored and that the effects of hurricane Isabelle were minimal for you. On the morning of the 19th I awoke to a neighborhood of felled trees and crushed cars, but I also awoke to a neighborhood of friendly people talking to one another. If there is anything positive that can be found in a disaster it is that it gives people an opportunity to see what their community is really made of.

I have had a similar opportunity to see the effects of the most recent political events on RPEC. It is heartening to see the energy of the new board members and committees focused so keenly on protecting our freedoms and creating a more peaceful world. I have watched the membership of the e-mail listserv grow and seen new names added to our petitions at every event we've attended. What we need now is to continue this spirit into the future.

I hope you will think of RPEC as your extended community. There are so many ways you can get involved from donating much needed money and time to participating in our events (like the upcoming annual auction and the membership salon). Please consider joining the board or a committee or volunteering in the office. And if you haven't joined our e-mail listserv please do so today. It is only with your participation that we will be able to reach our goals.

Yours truly,
Noah Scalin, Board Chair
noah@alrdesign.com

Book Store Feature of Annual Dinner



This year's annual RPEC Dinner & Auction will feature a book store where new and "like new" books may be purchased for much less than their original retail prices. Individuals with books in good condition they wish to donate, those willing to volunteer time to help with this effort, and those who need to make ticket reservations for the event, scheduled for 6 PM Friday, Nov. 7 at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church, are asked to call the RPEC office at 358-1958. (see p. 9 for more info.)

Action Needed on Racial Profiling!!

Cathy Woodson

Please contact:

Secretary of Public Safety, John W. Marshall
Post Office Box 1475
Richmond, Virginia 23218
phone: (804) 786-5351
e-mail: sops-
cs@governor.virginia.gov

The Governor's Advisory Panel on Biased-based Policing has recommended revised training standards, sample lesson plans and model policy to Virginia's law enforcement training academy network. The model policy will be provided to all sheriffs, police chiefs and state law enforcement administrators in the Commonwealth to assist them in the review, development and implementation of effective anti-bias policies and practices.

Please contact the Secretary of Public Safety and ask him to encourage the Virginia State Police Superintendent to collect and analyze information on all traffic stops to reduce and correct isolated incidents and possible patterns of racial profiling by law enforcement officials in Virginia.

Background

A Joint Subcommittee studying the status and needs of African-American males in Virginia identified bias in policing practices as a serious problem affecting the African-American community. In Virginia, legislation has been introduced in the past three General Assembly sessions to address the issue. This legislation would require data collection and analysis on ALL traffic stops. Currently data is available only on tickets issued and arrests.

Surveys carried out by the Virginia State Police, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police and the Virginia Sheriff's Association concluded that racial bias in policing was not widespread or pervasive in Virginia law enforcement. In 2002 Delegate Kenneth Melvin, on behalf of Governor Mark Warner, introduced House Bill 1053. House Bill 1053 directs the Department of Criminal Justice Services to address biased policing in its basic and in-service training standards for law enforcement officers and publish and disseminate a model policy on biased policing for use by law enforcement agencies in Virginia. This bill was approved by the General Assembly.

Law-abiding citizens in many jurisdictions within the Commonwealth occasionally or repeatedly encounter law enforcement officials on routine traffic stops who appear to have stopped them solely on the basis of race or some other non-criminal personal characteristic.

Virginia is a free and open society rooted and growing in its recognition of the fundamental dignity of all its residents, without regard to race, ethnicity, color, age or gender. It is important to secure and maintain the confidence and respect of Virginia residents for the rightful authority of Virginia state and local law enforcement officers and agencies. Data collection on all traffic stops will discourage and prevent future incidents of racial profiling by law enforcement officers as well as identify and correct possible patterns of racial profiling in various part of the state.

By reporting and analyzing information on each routine traffic stop, law enforcement agencies will have adequate data to identify and take appropriate action on isolated cases or possible ongoing patterns of racial profiling by law enforcement officers in each jurisdiction.

Driver Profiling Complaint Form

You may file a Driver Profiling Complaint Form with the ACLU at <http://forms.aclu.org/feedback//feedback.cfm?r=6&ia=1&ii=0>.

ACLU states that, "By filling out this form, you are helping the American Civil Liberties Union collect much needed data about the prevalence, patterns, and characteristics of racially discriminatory highway stops by state, county and local police departments. Please be assured that all personal information collected will be kept strictly confidential on request."

BRING THEM HOME NOW!

Larry Syverson

I'm Larry Syverson, a resident of Chesterfield County. I am a proud member of Richmond's longest on-going peace vigil. Since March, we have stood in front of the Federal Courthouse protesting first the war and now the occupation of Iraq.

I am also a member of Military Families Speak Out (MFSO), an organization of people who oppose the war and occupation of Iraq and have relatives in the military. Over 800 families have joined MFSO.

I have four sons. Three have chosen the military as a career. My oldest son, Branden, is a tank commander in the 4th Infantry. In April, he was deployed to Tikrit. My youngest son, Bryce is a gunner on a Bradley fighting vehicle in the 1st Armored. In May, he was deployed to Baghdad.

What do I hear from my sons?

They say it's Hot! Generally, it's around 130 during the day and 100 at night. Branden writes that even after five months, he is still sleeping on his tank and goes up to six weeks without a shower.

They are bored! Both have said they generally work about 3 or 4 hours each day.

In his earlier letters, Branden wrote that the Iraqis offered him food. In his most recent letter he wrote that Iraqi children were throwing rocks at him.

What's it like to be the father of two sons in Iraq?

It's wondering where people's priorities are when reading polls that more people are upset about the money spent in Iraq than the number of soldiers killed.

It's the loneliness of hearing the President speak about war, but only referring to the soldiers and their families as needing to sacrifice. In previous wars, it was expected that the American people would collectively sacrifice – not selectively sacrifice as now.

It's listening with disbelief the President say he would rather the attacks be in Iraq than on our own people. But, the attacks in Iraq are against our soldiers. Does the President not consider my sons in Iraq Americans any more?

It's being stunned hearing the President egg on guerilla fighters to take shots at your sons with the callous statement "Bring 'em on." Does he consider my

sons disposable?

It's playing Russian roulette with all the other military families after hearing that another soldier has been killed in Iraq – Whose son is it?

It's living with the dread of hearing an unfamiliar car in the driveway with news of your sons.

I don't oppose the war because I have two sons in Iraq. It would be naïve of me as the father of three career military men to think they would never be put in harm's way. I oppose the war because I felt my sons were put in harm's way because of faulty information. My opposition was galvanized when President Bush urged Iraqi guerilla fighters to try and take out my sons.

Because of President Bush's July 2nd challenge to the guerilla fighters to "Bring 'em on", MFSO, along with Veterans for Peace and other organizations, formed a campaign to "BRING THEM HOME NOW!" The campaign's mission is to demand: an end to the occupation of Iraq and an immediate return of all US troops to their home duty stations.

How can you help bring the troops home?

Attend anti-war marches and peace vigils. More specifically, join Richmond's ongoing vigil every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from noon to 1:00 PM, in front of the Federal Courthouse at 10th and Main.

If you know military families that are upset with the war, tell them about MFSO.

Write your congressman and senators.

Write letters to the editor of your local paper.

Call in radio talk shows.

This is the only way to truly support these troops, and the families who are just as much a part of the military as they are.

Bush says, "Bring 'em on". Join me in saying "BRING THEM HOME NOW!"

Tax Day Reflections on War and Reparations

Arnie Alper, New Hampshire Program Coordinator for the American Friends Service Committee

April 15, 2003. At the moment the United States launched its attack against Iraq, March 19, I was in Nicaragua, with a group of neighborhood women describing their working conditions in Managua's "free trade zone" clothing factories. Juana said she gets up at 3:30 am, six days a week, in order to cook, iron, wash, and get her kids ready for school in time to get to the foreign-owned blue jeans factory where she works from 7 am to 7 PM. Her typical take-home pay is about \$65 a month, of which \$25 goes to her sister for childcare.

Sweatshop jobs are one of the legacies of United States intervention in Nicaragua. The Marines landed for the first time in 1894, when they occupied the Atlantic coast town of Bluefields for a month to protect "US interests." They returned in 1896, 1898, 1899, 1907, and 1910. In 1912--five years before the "communist threat" was born in Russia--the Marines landed again, and stayed for twenty-one years. By the time they left, the US-trained National Guard under the leadership of Anastasio Somoza was ready to seize power. Somoza and his sons ran the country for the next 46 years, during which time they and their cronies amassed huge fortunes and those who objected met repression from the National Guard. US support for the Somoza regime is summed up in a statement often attributed to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who is said to have stated of Somoza senior, "He may be a son of a bitch, but he's our son of a bitch."

Regime change finally came in

1979, when the government of the third Somoza fell to a popular insurrection led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front. The US government responded by organizing former National Guard members into a counter-revolutionary force, known as *contras*, which waged attacks for the next decade.

Nicaragua responded, in part, by taking the United States to the World Court, a United Nations agency formally known as the International Court of Justice. The Court ruled in 1986 that the United States had violated international law "by training, arming, equipping, financing and supplying the contra forces or otherwise encouraging, supporting and aiding military and paramilitary activities in and against Nicaragua." Specific acts the Court found to be illegal included the mining of Nicaragua's harbors, a trade embargo, attacks on ports, and publication of a training manual instructing the *contras* in commission of acts that violate humanitarian law, i.e. acts of terrorism. The Court ordered the United States to pay reparations. The United States refused, and maintained its political, military, and economic pressure on Nicaragua, one of the poorest nations in the western hemisphere.

When the Sandinistas lost power to a US-backed candidate in the 1990 election, the *contra* war ended and US intervention shifted to the economic arena. The Nicaraguan government was forced by US-dominated international lending institutions (the World

Bank and International Monetary Fund) to sell off state-owned enterprises, cut spending on education and health care, and create the "free trade zones" so attractive to sweatshop manufacturers like Juana's employers.

The reason I am telling this story now is that I am preparing to complete my tax form, and my mind is filled with the faces of my Nicaraguan friends. I cannot escape the news stories of bombed-out cities in Iraq, where the United States now proposes to reconstruct a country in its own image, probably with the involvement of the IMF and World Bank. Already the Bush Administration has received a special \$62 billion appropriation to pay for the cost of war (compared to only \$2.5 billion for post-war relief and reconstruction), on top of the \$400 billion previously allocated to what is so cleverly called "national defense." With that huge sum of money, which accounts for nearly half of world spending on military forces, the Bush Administration plans to revive production of nuclear weapons, which according to its Nuclear Posture Review, may even be launched against non-nuclear adversaries.

I cannot obey my conscience and turn over another dime to the federal government. Instead, I will devote the amount the IRS says I owe, to reparations--in Nicaragua and Iraq. Half of my withheld taxes will go to a grassroots women's group in the neighborhood where

(Continued on page 8)

Going from Bad to Worse

(Continued from page 1)

NAFTA is encouraging the privatization of traditional public services such as water systems, schools, prisons, welfare programs, postal systems, and transportation. Corporations can challenge governments to open their services to profit making while dramatically reducing public regulation and oversight. This trend threatens to degrade public health while further eroding the overall prospects of the poor.

The NAFTA model of increased privatization combined with deregulation is now being proposed for the entire western hemisphere (excluding Cuba) under the acronym FTAA (Free Trade Agreement of the Americas). The FTAA is being negotiated by government leaders with vested interests in big businesses and the leaders of such businesses. People representing health, environmental and labor interests are not invited to the negotiating table.

U.S. trade negotiators are trying to force patented, expensive, and genetically modified seeds on all the subsistence farmers of the western hemisphere. They are also pressing to expand corporate patent protection involving pharmaceuticals while giving multinational corporations patent control over the medicinal knowledge of the indigenous people.

The FTAA proposal to expand the failed principles of NAFTA to 31 more countries will do nothing to cancel or reduce the crushing debts of poverty stricken countries such as Bolivia and will do nothing to curtail rampant capital speculation that is inevitably leading to an ever-greater disparity between the developed and underdeveloped areas of the hemisphere.

Some writers have labeled the trade policies stressing privatization and deregulation as "war" since such policies kill people, "...by pushing up prices on necessities like water and medicines and pushing down prices on raw commodities like coffee, making small farms unsustainable. War because those who resist and refuse to disappear, as the Zapatistas say, are routinely arrested, beaten and even killed." ** The phrase "free trade" is open to interpretation; it can be seen as something potentially beneficial to the entire world. But in its present form and usage and as it is manifest in NAFTA and the FTAA it means corporate freedom from government oversight and oppression of the poor by the rich. Perhaps when trade benefits the world it is more accurately described as "fair trade." Free trade is bad when it undermines democracy, destroys the environment, and plunges millions of people into despair and hopelessness. It's bad when it overrides elected governments, endangers public health and puts profits ahead of people. Thus, the opposition to NAFTA and its offspring FTAA is not anti trade. Rather, the opposition favors trade that embodies the values of justice, equality and respect for life.

So, what can be done to stop the bad from getting worse?

1. Directly communicate with the people attending the next FTAA Ministerial in Miami, November 17 through 21 by writing to Citizens Trade Campaign, P.O. Box 77077, Washington, DC 20013 (www.citizenstrade.org).
2. Contact elected officials on all levels of government.
3. Join the thousands of people who will be in Miami on November 17-21,

Domestic Violence Focus of October

Each year, Virginians recognize October as Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Awareness Month. For 2003, domestic violence programs and sexual assault crisis centers across the state are planning events in local communities throughout the month. A calendar and listing of these events, published by Virginians Against Domestic Violence, may be found online at www.vadv.org.

RAINN, the Rape Abuse & Incest National Network founded by singer/songwriter Tori Amos, is another resource for those affected by or concerned about domestic violence/sexual assault issues. The organization operates a National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1.800.656.HOPE and educates more than 120 million Americans yearly about sexual assault. More online at www.rainn.org.

Virginians Against Domestic Violence (VADV) is a coalition of individuals, agencies and organizations committed to the elimination of domestic violence. As a non-profit membership organization, VADV provides a collective voice for concerned citizens and survivors of family violence throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Members share a vision of healthy relationships that are based on dignity and respect.

PUBLIC ACTION, RECONCILIATION AND SOFT POWER

David D. Burhans

Ambassador James A. Joseph, the National Chair of the National Conference for Community and Justice (Ambassador to South Africa from 1996-2000 and currently Professor at Duke University) addressed the NCCJ leaders from across the Nation in January of this year in which he identified crucial qualities for leaders in the 21st Century. Impressed by the insight of one Francis Hesselbein, Ambassador Joseph said, "Effective leaders must be 1) Custodians of Values; 2) Advocates of Public Action; 3) Agents of Reconciliation; 4) Representatives of Soft Power in a World dominated by Hard Power; and 5) Individuals in Need of Spiritual and Intellectual Renewal.

Each of these leadership qualities resonates, but three are critical for shaping **A More Perfect Union**, for effecting open eyes, open hearts and open minds. Seldom in the history of this nation has there been a greater need for *Advocates for Public Action*, *Agents of Reconciliation*, and for *Representatives of Soft Power* in a world dominated by hard power.

Advocates for Public Action. Private compassion and quiet empathy gladly enhance personal relationships but public action in the media, at lunchtime seminars, with new and creative educational materials in the hands of our children and grandchildren in Richmond are but a few of the suggestions that reduce stereotyping, that shatter the barriers of bias, bigotry and racism in our city.

It is not simply enough to be advocates of the religious and

ethnic minorities and those marginalized in our communities. How can we empower them to speak for themselves? A special friend of mine, a benefactor in the Richmond area who is Jewish, quietly provides several thousand dollars each year to fund grants (from \$1,000 to as much as \$2,500 each) for grass-roots initiatives designed to enhance the quality of life in communities/neighborhoods throughout the Greater Richmond Area. Dozens of neighborhood stories and innovative program ideas have been received in the Chaplaincy Office each Summer for the last five years asking for support.

The public action of one individual inspires and motivates others to act publicly in breaking down barriers and tapping human potential in Richmond communities. Public action begets public action.

Agents of Reconciliation. If there is any hope for creating **A More Perfect Union**, healers and unifiers are critical.

Agents of reconciliation first acknowledge the misinformation and the alienation that follows in the effort to build bridges of understanding and respect. Agents of reconciliation labor to correct historical and present day illusions. I as a Christian need Jews and Muslims and Hindus and Sikhs to understand and affirm that authentic Christianity is not represented by the Ku Klux Klan or murderers of medical doctors. Muslims need Christians and Jews and Buddhists and Jains to understand and speak boldly that Islam is not accurately

represented by the militant extremists of 9-11. The Hindus of South Asia who now work and live next to us want us to know that Hinduism is not accurately represented by those who kill non-Hindus simply because they espouse a different religion.

Reconcilers dispel the tragic myths that tend to define and stereotype a particular group. The truth is that reconciliation requires the communal spirit. The old Latin proverb is true, "One person is no person at all." We are creatures of relatedness, all members of the human family. Whenever I dehumanize another, I am dehumanized in the process. Agents of reconciliation acknowledge and discuss differences among them but in the telling of their own stories and listening to others' stories they discover common ground.

Representatives of Soft Power. Hard power has been defined by Professor Joseph Nye at the Kennedy School of Harvard as the ability to get others to do what we want. We live in a world dominated by hard power. Soft power is the ability to get others to want the same thing we want, "to attract and influence others through the appeal of social and moral messages, through respect for the traditions of others," and through the examples set by acts of kindness and generosity. Soft power is reflected in Marion Wright Edelman's work in behalf of children and families, in Elie Wiesel's reminder of what humans are capable of at their worst (still he speaks and lectures

(Continued on page 8)

**PUBLIC ACTION,
RECONCILIATION AND SOFT**

(Continued from page 7)

without bitterness), and also in Nelson Mandela's years of sacrifice in his appeal for justice and equality. Soft power invites all of us to explore ways to affirm and to celebrate our differences while we labor to create a society in Richmond that honors, respects and

**Tax Day Reflections on War
and Reparations**

(Continued from page 5)

Juana lives, to help with nutrition, education, and economic development projects. The other half will go to a humanitarian organization to rebuild Iraq's water systems.

I have no problem paying my fair share to support our nation's schools, health care system, housing, and environmental protection. But I cannot willingly provide one more cent to a government bent on war, destruction, and nuclear terror.

**United Methodists Honor
Frank Hargrove**

The VA Chapter of the Methodist Federation for Social Action has presented its 2003 Bishop Leontine Kelly Social Justice Award to Delegate Frank D. Hargrove of Hanover County for his courageous efforts in recent years to abolish the death penalty in Virginia. The presentation, which included a citation and a wooden plaque designed and produced by RPEC Executive Director Ken Willis, took place at Skipwith United Methodist Church in Richmond on July 23,

Diplomatic Initiatives Continue but No Peace for Zimbabwe

Scott Morgan

The Various Initiatives alleviate the that has plagued since 2000 have frantic pace in 2003. On the August 6th Swaziland was African Civil Consultation on This was a forum DITSHWANLO Centre for and the Lawyer's Human Rights here in the Among the Chief Participants were representatives of regional human rights groups, trade unions, church groups, women's organizations and youth groups from Zimbabwe, Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, Zambia, Malawi and Namibia.



Diplomatic underway to tragic situation Zimbabwe continued at a August of Weekend of Gaborone, the host of the Society Zimbabwe. organized by the Botswana Human Rights Committee for which is based United States.

Besides using the most often quoted statement in the Domestic Politics of Zimbabwe since the failed Constitutional referendum of 2000 which is that the Government of Robert Mugabe has to bring to a immediate halt the Massive Human Rights Violations that are occurring in that troubled Republic. The Consultation also called for other steps to be taken also. First the Groups called on the SADC (South Africa Development Council) member states to examine the compliance of the Government in Harare with the Windhoek Declaration also the AU (African Union) was called upon to issue a statement condemning the massive Human Rights Violations in the Country. The attendees also urged that Zimbabwe also still be suspended until the rule of Law is restored and respect for Human Rights returns. Also the group also urged that the African Commission on Human and People's Rights report of its June 2002 Fact Finding Mission be released. Press Reports from the Independent Media in Zimbabwe suggest that the report was critical of Mugabe and has been quashed. The Outspoken Human Rights Activist Archbishop Ncube said" this meeting with our colleagues from the region has helped immensely to strengthen us in our struggle for respect of basic human rights in Zimbabwe.

Despite these pleas however on the Weekend of August 22nd members of the SADC met in Tanzania and decided to encourage the EU (European Union) to lift the Sanction currently in place against ZANU-PF (Zimbabwe African National Union- Patriotic Front) They believe that change can be met with using dialogue. The Economy Falters, HIV is rampant and recent press reports indicate that members of the Clergy are now being intimidated and Tortured by members of the CIO (Central Intelligence Organization) The long suffering people of Zimbabwe deserve a break from the Misery,

Consumers Corner

Green Hotels

John Gallini

The Summer 2003 issue of *Earthwise*, a newsletter from the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), has an article on "Green Hotels" that offers some helpful suggestions.

I was reminded of the metaphor that Sallie McFague uses in her book "The Body of God", in which she suggests that we should think of the earth as our home, rather than as a hotel. McFague writes:

"If we belong here, if the Earth is our home, then it follows that we will want to take care of it. The Western hotel sensibility views the earth as if it were set up for our convenience, with endless supplies of hot and cold running water, gourmet room-service meals, and luxurious fresh towels, that. When we have used them up, can be tossed in the middle of the room as we drive on down the highway for more of the same. But we are coming to realize that the earth is not a hotel, and we had better start treating it as our home."

The concept of "Green" hotels is a bit like treating a stay in a hotel as if we were at home. According to the "Green" Hotel Association website:

"Green" Hotels are properties whose managers are eager to institute programs that save water, save energy and reduce solid waste--while saving money--to help PROTECT OUR ONE AND ONLY EARTH!

So one step we can take while traveling is to look for this type of place to stay. According to UCS, you can find such hotels and the "Green" Hotel www.greenhotels.com www.greenseal.org. not yet many such is one hotel (in two B&B's. There are D.C.



B&B's at two websites: Association website at and Green Seal at Unfortunately there are hotels. In Virginia, there Mountain Lake, VA) and several large hotels in

The next step would be to take your ecological principles with you when you travel. If you stay more than one night in the same hotel, you can ask that they not change the linens while you are there. Turn out lights when you leave the room and adjust the thermostat when you go out for the day. Use water and power as you would at home – frugally! Take your own soap and shampoo.

Finally, let the hotel management know what you think of their environmental practices. Suggest compact fluorescent bulbs for the rooms and refillable dispensers for soap and shampoo, and let them know about the "Green" Hotel Association and Green Seal.

CALENDAR

Meetings of Local Groups

- Every Sunday** **Food Not Bombs, Richmond <Meal Sharing**, 4:00 P.M. in Monroe Park. Hotline # 359-4880 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.** **Equality Virginia**, 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 4th Sat.** **Pax Christi Peace Community** - Call Paula Powdermaker for details - 355-7395.
- Every 1st 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 4 - 11** **Keep Space for Peace Week; International Days of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space** - more info at www.space4peace.org and globalnet@mindspring.com
- October 11-12** **Amnesty International's Faith In Action Weekend** - the faith community is invited to focus on abolition of the death penalty from the perspective of their own traditions. AIUSA has free resources. Contact Kathleen Kenney
- October 13** **Richmond City Workers' Union Rally** - 5 PM at 9th & Broad, Join AFSCME local 3134, Richmond City Workers Union, and supporters in a spirited union rally before city council. Demand the city meet with it's employees unions NOW!
- October 14** **The Richmond Chapter of VICPP will have a meeting on Tuesday, 7-9 p.m. at Ginter Park Presbyterian Church (3601 Seminary Ave.).** The Meeting is entitled "Justice: Just Do It (An Experience in Some How To's)."
- October 17-19** **The Virginia Organizing Project is sponsoring a Dismantling Racism workshop in Williamsburg Virginia.** This workshop will be held at the Jamestown 4-H Center. For more details or to register, contact Cathy Woodson at 261-7497 or e-mail at cwood329@aol.com.
- October 22** **"Safe and Free Community Forum"** - Panel discussion on the ramifications of the PATRIOT Act. At the Virginia Holocaust Museum, 2000 E. Cary Street. 5:30-8:30 PM.
- October 25** **VADP Annual Conference Charlottesville, VA. - 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM - Contact the VADP office for details. (888) 567-8237**
- November 1-2** **Regional Palestinian Solidarity Conference** - Workshops presented by regional Palestinian solidarity groups. For more information please email us at fpn@vcu.edu. Hosted by: Free Palestine Now! (FPN-VCU)- www.studentorg.vcu.edu/fpn-

Committee Reports

Program Committee

The Program Committee met on September 8th and will meet on October 6th and November 3rd to continue our work on the Patriot Act and Conflict Resolution. Please contact Christopher Patterson (chris@ca4a.org, (804) 262-8507) to get involved or if you have any questions.

Newsletter Committee

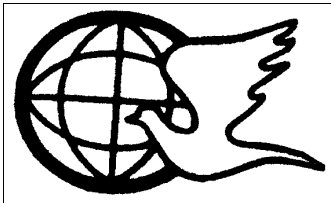
The newsletter committee met on September 2 to plan the October N/L. We are starting a new column that will provide a capsule look at other peace centers in our state. The first one looks at the Charlottesville Center for P&J and will appear next month. We normally try to meet the fourth week of each month in the afternoon. Contact John Gallini (272-8141, gallinjb@aol.com) with questions or suggestions.

Fundraising Committee

The F/R committee will meet on September 25. Our main concern will be plans for the Annual Dinner and Auction. Contact Paul Fleisher (795-5326, pfleishe@infi.net) with questions or suggestions.

Membership Committee NEWS!

The Membership committee met and discussed the salon which is scheduled for Oct. 11. We developed a format and some ideas for follow up. The committee will meet after the next board meeting on Oct. 6. Contact Mim Scalin (353-0217, mimgs@aol.com)



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