



RPEC NEWS

The newsletter of the Richmond Peace Education Center

January-February 2006

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Profiles in Peacemaking

Dorothy Day and the St. Patrick's Four — Catholic Worker Peacemaking

Sue Frankel-Streit

When we have a party at Little Flower Catholic Worker, we hide our portrait of Dorothy Day behind the cardboard palm tree. She's our movement mother, she has a reputation of being a bit harsh, and we don't want to disappoint her by having fun while the world goes to hell.

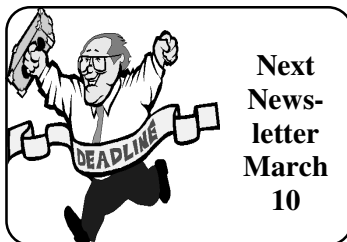
Dorothy Day—journalist, convert, co-founder of the Catholic Worker—has become for many an enigmatic model of the radical Christian life. The movement she started with French peasant philosopher Peter Maurin in 1933 in New York City has become home, over the years, to an eclectic group of people trying to live out a vision of faith, community, hospitality, simple living and resistance to what Day called “the filthy, rotten system.” I have been greatly blessed to call this movement home for almost 20 years, having been first drawn in by Dorothy Day's own story of her life, *The Long Loneliness*. Over and over I have been re-inspired by her pithy, earthy writings. And as time passes, I am inspired over and over by others who have made this movement their home.



Photo of Dorothy Day courtesy of the Dorothy Day-Catholic Worker Collection at Marquette University.

At our most recent party, a celebration of puppetistas on their way to confront the School of the Americas in Fort Benning,

Georgia, Dorothy peeked out from behind the palm tree as Catholic Worker Teresa Grady from Ithaca, NY taught us to salsa dance at midnight. Teresa, her sister Clare, Peter DeMott and Danny Burns, all from Ithaca, were recently on trial for pouring blood at a recruiting office. These Catholic Workers, all parents, faced over 10 years in jail for this action when the federal government charged them with conspiracy. They beat that charge, but are still facing six months to a year in jail. While awaiting sentencing, the St. Patrick's Four have been traveling, speaking about their action, trial and upcoming jail time. The morning after they spoke in Charlottesville, Clare, Teresa and I sat at our kitchen table, sharing coffee and stories. Looking at Clare and Teresa, knowing their struggle as mothers, as women trying to be faithful to a vision of liberation and truth in a world of oppression and lies, I felt again that deep inspiration and challenge that has kept me in this movement for most of my adult life.



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Reflections from the Board Chair

Wendy Northup

I recently finished reading a very interesting book lent me by a friend: *Chasing Che: A Motorcycle Journey in Search of the Guevara Legend* by Patrick Symmes. The author retraces the steps of Che's "motorcycle diaries" and tries to understand what was happening then to the young Ernesto, how he became "Che" and what it meant to him and to the people of South America. It is a very interesting book and fun to read—but it also caused me to do some reflecting on the Peace Center's ongoing commitment to nonviolence, especially during this horrendous time of such violence. Early in the book, Symmes refers to two newspaper articles—one about Che and one about an Argentine Naval officer prominent in the "Dirty War" against the left in Argentina; this officer emerged unscathed, in spite of his involvement in scores of deaths and disappearances.

"There they were next to each other in the news columns, two such different men—Marxist guerilla and navy officer—yet both Argentine, both sons of cultured leadership class, both combatants in a secret war. They were opposites in theory but startlingly close in origin, men who had lived clandestine lives in the service of political warfare, men obsessed with honor who nonetheless made the many compromises that a commitment to violence requires." (25)

It's the *many compromises that a commitment to violence requires* that I've been thinking about. Of course none of us lives a life without compromises; each of

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Reflections from the Director

Adria Scharf

Two weeks after the New Year's murder of the beloved Harvey family, fresh flowers continue to pile up in front of Kathryn Harvey's store World of Mirth. Sheets of paper hang taped to the store's windows, where friends and passers by scribble their memories and reflections in marker pen.

"I miss you little girls."
"Stella you gave the best hugs."
"You will be so missed."
"What do we do now?"

The Richmond Peace Education Center expresses its deepest condolences to the family, friends, and communities of the homicide victims. Please know that our commitment to working for peace in the community has only been strengthened.

The city is still reeling from the concentrated spate of violence — from its scale, from its brutality. Thousands continue to mourn the loss of the Harveys, the Baskerville and Tucker family, and the still-unsolved shooting death of Lewis Aaron Casper and his daughter Roicana, 17, a student at George Wythe High School.

The events of New Year's week were in some ways particular, but in other ways all too symptomatic of the larger, ongoing problem of violence in the city. It's a problem with deep roots—in social dislocation, in disinvested neighborhoods, in a prison system that aggravates patterns of violence more than it rehabilitates, and in people whose own lives have never been valued showing utter and cruel disregard for the lives of others.

Richmond, let's make 2006 the year we say "no more." Let's get serious about ending the epidemic of violence and addressing its root causes. Let's commit to peace in 2006.

Reflections from the Board Chair

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us tells ourselves different things to justify those compromises. But one thing became clear in reading this book and that is that where a commitment to violence is concerned, the compromises are dangerous and frequently hurt many others, no matter how noble the ends. Che certainly witnessed great injustice and his passion was driven by a desire to bring justice to the masses. But the ends not only do NOT justify the means, they frequently bring about a different outcome than we could have imagined. At the very end of the original *Motorcycle Diaries* Che creates a conversation with an imaginary person who explains to him the necessity of revolution. This person explains that a just society could only come about through violence, and that those who could not adapt to a new world—innocent or not—would perish.

“Revolution is impersonal,” the mystery man warned, “so it will take their lives and even use their memory as an example or as an instrument to control the young people coming after them.” He then predicts that Guevara would die “the perfect manifestation of hatred and rage.” (264)

By pursuing an equally fervent commitment to nonviolence, we raise the personal to the level of the holy. We care deeply about individuals and about our relationship to them. We try to overcome terrible acts of violence by creative and nonviolent means. We see no end as justification for a violent means of getting there. This is the work of the Peace Center and one that I am

Consumers Corner

Cameras and Film

John Gallini

Sheryl Eisenberg, in the December 2005 issue of the National Resource Defense Council’s online journal *This Green Life*, has some interesting observations about cameras and film that are worth passing along. The first relates to disposable cameras. I must admit, I have never purchased a disposable camera, in part because they seemed like one more gimmick that used up more of the earth’s resources than necessary. But there were times, like trips to Haiti, when they seemed like a good idea.

Eisenberg points out that after much pressure from environmental groups, the major film companies now recycle these cameras. Further, the rate of recycling is quite high – Kodak claims that over 75% of their disposable cameras are recycled. And between 75 and 90% of the material is put to new use. The reason for the high recycle rate is that it is the film developers that do the recycling, not we consumers. Because it makes economic sense, producers will often pay the developers to return the disposables.

As consumers we can do two things. First, find a developer who participates in the recycling program. There are dozens of locations in our area that do this. I checked with Richmond Camera, for example, and they claimed that they did recycle. Second, be sure you purchase a brand of camera that can be recycled by that shop.

But recycling is not as good as reuse, and the new digital cameras provide benefits well beyond those of disposable recycling. Digital cameras eliminate the need for film, film processing and the toxic chemicals associated with both. Further, you can choose to print only the best of your photos. The rest you can store electronically (which takes much less space in your home, as well). And you can share the pictures widely by sending electronic copies to your friends and family – with no prints or negatives.

One challenge with digital is that new, “improved” versions keep coming out, tempting the consumer to buy the latest model. But that is true of most of the electronic devices we use. If you do decide to buy a newer version of any electronic device, first see if your old model can be used by someone else (actually, RPEC is looking for a used digital camera to document our activities). Or check your local school to see if they can use it. And some manufacturers will take back used items to recycle – but you will probably have to package it and mail it back.

As Eisenberg notes, “Meanwhile, try to resist the temptation to upgrade at every opportunity. It just turns your long-lasting camera into a disposable, minus the good recycling plan.”

edified to be a part of. This is the work we attempt to do day after day in a city with far too much violence and hatred. So as I begin this new year, I myself am looking for positive ways to deepen my commitment to nonviolence and wish the same for each of you. I am proud

that RPEC has maintained its presence for these past 25 years and as we enter our next quarter century, I hope each of you will find a way to help bring true peace into our world and into the community where you find yourself each day.

Profiles in Peacemaking

(Continued from page 1)

Like Dorothy, they—we—struggle with the meaning of voluntary poverty, of precarity, simplicity, community, resistance. We struggle over how to mother our biological children without neglecting the world's children (who are also ours), especially those who suffer from our country's war making.

The Catholic Worker has always been, bottom line, about personalism, the taking of personal responsibility, lived out in the context of community. Dorothy Day practiced personalism at the soup kitchen and hospitality house in New York City, as a protestor in front of the White House; on the picket line with Caesar Chavez in California. Clare, Teresa, Danny and Peter practiced personalism at the Ithaca recruiting center. As Clare describes it, "There are no innocent bystanders; we are responsible for each other. If you see a crime looming, you need to intervene."

"These ideas are part of the best of human nature. Taking these things to heart, and acting in the Catholic Worker tradition of personalism, taking personal responsibility, we went to the lobby of the recruiting station and performed this nonviolent action, each pouring, carefully and ceremoniously, four ounces of our blood there, as part of a long tradition of nonviolent, symbolic action."

The courage and intensity of the St. Patrick's Four action, the clarity of Dorothy Day's writings and life, are underscored by the Catholic Worker commitment to community. Teresa explains, "We are supported by our community—even

nationally and internationally."

Coming from the Catholic Worker context of alternative economics helps facilitate the process. We are free to act without fear of losing all that we have, because we don't live completely within the constraints of the capitalistic culture.

And it is only within the context of communal support and accountability that we can remain aware of the suffering in prisons, war zones and disaster areas without sinking into despair. Instead, we continue the long haul of shared prayer and reflection, of daily life in community with others. We continue to listen to and tell the stories of those who've walked this way before, and to those who are doing so now.

Dorothy Day was a remarkable woman—a peacemaker, a Catholic Christian living out her faith, a journalist searching for truth and beauty amongst the realities of the oppressed. Dorothy Day took risks. She sacrificed her own comfort, and her daughter's security, to live out the truths in which she believed. Such a life was certainly at times "harsh and dreadful" (from one of Day's favorite Dostoyevski quotes about love), and perhaps leaves the impression of Day as extremely serious. But John Cort, long time Catholic Worker and friend of Dorothy's, said that when he first saw her, she radiated a deep joy, and it was that joy that led him to join the Worker.

That joy also radiates from the St. Patrick's Four. So, at our next party, I think we may let Dorothy Day out from behind the palm tree.

Sue Frankel-Streit lives at Little Flower Catholic Worker at 16560 Louisa Road, Louisa, VA 23093 (littleflowercw@wildmail.com)

In Dorothy's Words

On how it all happened:

"We were just sitting there talking when Peter Maurin came in.

We were just sitting there talking when lines of people began to form, saying, "We need bread." We could not say, "Go, be thou filled." If there were six small loaves and a few fishes, we had to divide them. There was always bread.

We were just sitting there talking and people moved in on us. Let those who can take it, take it. Some moved out and that made room for more. And somehow the walls expanded.

We were just sitting there talking and someone said, "Let's all go live on a farm." It was as casual as all that, I often think. It just came about. It just happened.

I found myself, a barren woman, the joyful mother of children. It is not easy always to be joyful, to keep in mind the duty of delight. The most significant thing about The Catholic Worker is poverty, some say.

The most significant thing is community, others say. We are not alone any more. But the final word is love. At times it has been, in the words of Father Zossima, a harsh and dreadful thing, and our very faith in love has been tried through fire.

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In Dorothy's Words

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We cannot love God unless we love each other, and to love we must know each other. We know Him in the breaking of bread, and we know each other in the breaking of bread, and we are not alone any more. Heaven is a banquet and life is a banquet, too, even with a crust, where there is companionship.

We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community. It all happened while we sat there talking, and it is still going on." (*The Long Loneliness*).

On the long loneliness:

"For years, when people talked with me about my youth, about my life in New York before I became a Catholic, they have always brought up the subject of my loneliness and my restlessness. I am to blame for the mention of loneliness, though I didn't mean the word as it has been taken by so many people."

On her need for the Church:

"No human creature could receive or contain so vast a flood of love and joy as I often felt after the birth of my child. With this came the need to worship, to adore. I had heard many say that they wanted to worship God in their own way and did not need a Church in which to praise Him, nor a body of people with whom to associate themselves. But I did not agree to this. My very experience as a radical, my whole make-up, led me to want to associate myself with others, with the masses, in loving and praising God." (*The Long Loneliness*).

News You Can Use

25 Plans for Exiting Iraq

Adria Scharf

The Massachusetts-based policy group Project on Defense Alternatives has collected more than 25 plans for Iraq withdrawal on a new web page. The page features serious exit strategies developed since July 2004 by security analysts and U.S. political leaders. The project's hope is that "this resource will enhance the national discussion of the Iraq conflict and facilitate the research efforts of journalists, analysts, and students alike."

See the Project on Defense Alternatives web page at www.comw.org/pda.

How Many Secret Prisons?

Adam P. Short

Expanding on November revelations in the *Washington Post* of a network of secret CIA-run prisons in eastern Europe, a December Human Rights Watch report documents allegations that the United States ran another secret prison, this one in Afghanistan.

Eight detainees in the U.S. detention facility at Guantánamo Bay naval base, Cuba, provided their lawyers consistent, independent accounts of their experiences in the Afghanistan prison. They described being chained to walls, deprived of food and water, and kept in total darkness while being subjected to continuous loud music or other sounds. The guards were not in military uniform, according to the detainees, suggesting that the prison may have been operated by the CIA or another nonmilitary agency.

For more information see the Human Rights Watch website at

www.hrw.org.

For detailed testimony by one Guantánamo detainee, Jumah al-Dossari, about his experiences in U.S. custody, see Amnesty International's web page <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGAMR511072005>.

Haiti Elections Postponed Again

Adam P. Short

It has been 22 months since the United States allowed Haiti's first and only democratically elected president to be removed in a coup, on the pretext that his government was insufficiently democratic. Since then, Haiti has not held a single election, and this past weekend, elections were postponed a fifth consecutive time. Meanwhile, the administration of the U.S.-installed Prime Minister Gerard Latortue continues its lawless behavior, imprisoning thousands of opposition activists and firing judges who rule in ways displeasing to the executive. The U.N. Security Council has called on Haiti's interim government to hold elections by February 7, but according to Canadian journalists Leslie Bagg and Aaron Lakoff, Haitian people they speak to fear that "they are being asked to participate in 'selections' rather than elections," given that opposition leaders have been imprisoned and voters in poor neighborhoods repressed.

Leslie Bagg and Aaron Lakoff, independent journalists from Montreal, are reporting from Haiti during the month of January. To read their reports, see Lakoff's website <http://aaron.resist.ca> or www.zmag.org.

Happenings at the Center

Recent Events

Berryman Center Open House Welcomes Old and New Friends

On Sunday, December 11, the Peace Center participated in an afternoon open house sponsored by the Berryman Center, the community center that houses our offices. Staff members Adria Scharf and Paul Fleisher, and RPEC volunteer Adam Short, greeted several dozen visitors from the local community, as well as a number of long-time Peace Center supporters. It was good to see old friends, and make some new ones—several of our visitors shared useful information about conflict resolution programs, and asked to join our mailing list. Welcome!

Planning for Second Youth Peace Summit Underway

RPEC program committee members and staff met with young people representing the St. Christopher School's summer leadership development program on Dec. 8 to begin planning our second youth peace summit. The summit, part of the Peace Center's Richmond Youth Peace Project (RYPP) initiative, is tentatively scheduled for April 22. It will feature a keynote speaker, workshops for both young people and parents, and a musical concert. RYPP also planned to hold an education concert on January 21, as part of the Living the Dream commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The concert was scheduled to feature

board member Ram Bhagat's Drums No Guns group as well as other music and spoken word performances. RYPP would welcome additional volunteers, both young people and adults, to help plan and carry out the upcoming summit.

Conflict Resolution Training a Success!

The Peace Center saw one of its largest groups ever — 19 people — for Conflict Resolution Training on January 14-15. The response was so great, a waiting list had to be created. Wendy Northup, Paul Fleisher and Johnnie Taylor led the group in role playing, group exercises, active listening and much more. We expect many of the new trainers to assist in upcoming trainings at several locations, including Thomas Jefferson High School and Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church. Stay tuned for another training session later in the year.

2005 Preliminary Financial Report Reflects Need for More Members

The books on 2005 are closed. While individual contributions continued to be excellent, our expenses exceeded revenue by \$4,600. Most of the decrease could be attributed to the transition in leadership, as Ken Willis left RPEC after six years of service, Adria Scharf took over in October and we completed our first full year in our new space. 2005 was also the first year we had to pay rent for our space (which will increase significantly next year

as well). One of our biggest challenges in 2006 will be to increase membership. We'll also be working to increase revenue from events, programs, donations, and other sources. We will provide a more complete report when we publish our annual report later this year.

RPEC Members Join SOA Protest

(Related Commemoration Marks 25th Anniversary of Churchwomen Murders)

John Gallini

Each November, on the anniversary of the murders of the five Jesuit faculty members, their housekeeper and her daughter at the University of Central America in San Salvador in 1989, thousands have gathered at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia, to protest the school that trained the perpetrators of that massacre. This year SOA Watch estimated that 19,000 participated in the solemn funeral march on Sunday that commemorated the deaths of countless victims of the graduates of the School of the Americas. It took us over three hours to file past the gate to the Fort which houses the SOA (School of the Americas).

A group from Richmond has been traveling to Georgia each year since the early 1990's. We are representatives of Pax Christi and Richmond Friends Meeting and are all members of RPEC. The core of our group are Nancy Gowen, Dave Depp and Tom Cleary, each of whom has chosen to "cross the line" during past protests which resulted in arrest, trial and sentencing

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Happenings at the Center



Marchers carrying crosses inscribed with the names of the victims of the graduates of the SOA

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to prison terms or probation. This year 41 more crossed the line and were arrested (none from Richmond).

This annual protest has a political purpose (to close the SOA – now euphemistically called WHISC, the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation) and a strategic purpose. The latter maintains and gives energy to an expanding group of activists who can monitor and challenge U.S. intervention in Latin America. It also provides first-rate training of young people in the practice of nonviolent resistance. If you would like to participate in the political aspect of the protest, write to your Congressman and ask her or him to support HR 1217, The Latin America Military Training Review Act of 2005, and to contact Rep. Jim McGovern's (D-MA) office to become a cosponsor of this bipartisan bill. This bill would suspend operations at, and investigate the School of the Americas.

In a related activity, Nancy Gowen, Kathleen Kenney and Sr. Vicki Busch traveled to San Salvador in December to participate in

ceremonies marking the 25th anniversary of the brutal murders of the four U.S. churchwomen. As is true of most such murders, the perpetrators were found to be graduates of the SOA. All three report a week of powerful experiences as they met with the Salvadoran people who have been so deeply affected by our destructive foreign policy.

RPEC Co-Sponsors Alternatives to Military Service Workshop

RPEC is committed to educating the public about the activities of our government with regard to conducting the war in Iraq. To that end, we co-sponsored a workshop with Richmond Friends Meeting Jan. 27 - 28 on how to counter the aggressive recruiting tactics used by the military in targeting high school students. This forum, was featured in the January 11 issue of *Style Weekly* and the January 16 edition of the *Times Dispatch*. Look for more details in future newsletters about upcoming RPEC public forums titled "Iraq: Untold stories" and "Torture."

Upcoming Events

RPEC to Move Once Again!

By the time you read this, RPEC will be in the process of a second move in the past 15 months. This will not be as complicated as the last move, since it will only be to a different room on the same floor of the same building. So we will not have to change our phone number, address, stationery, etc. But it will still require a major effort, and



hopefully, many of you will find some time to help out (call the office at 232-1002 or e-mail rpec.1@juno.com). The reason for the move is that the rent in our present space has been substantially increased. The

room next door is smaller and the rent is less than half of what we would have to pay in our present space.

Correction – 2004 Contributors

In the Sept-Oct issue of RPECnews we included our 2004 Annual Report, with lists of contributors. We inadvertently omitted St. Bridget Catholic Church, a long-time major supporter of our work. We apologize and hope that you understand.

Uganda Under Increasing Scrutiny

Scott Morgan

Uganda, commonly viewed as a success story, has seen relative stability and economic growth since the 80s compared to many of its neighbors. It is also one of just a handful of countries worldwide to dramatically reduce its HIV infection rate. But recent developments in the country are raising widespread concern. Some of the areas of concern include the use of funds the government has received to combat the spread of HIV and AIDS and the displacement of more than a million people due to the violent conflict in the north—largely ignored by the U.S. media.

Millions in global fund grants used inappropriately

In an interview conducted in the U.S., the Foreign Minister of Uganda admitted that grants received from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria have been misappropriated. In response, the grants were suspended. The government of Uganda and a U.S. accounting firm are currently conducting an audit and have already made recommendations that are under consideration by the authorities in Kampala. Uganda expected the Global Fund to end the suspension of the grants on September 30th.^{*} In response to concerns of several Africa-focused advocacy groups that there was a shortage of condoms in the country, the foreign minister stated that Uganda imports 140,000,000 condoms annually.

Children and the LRA

A horrific situation in Northern Uganda has largely been shielded

About the Author

Scott Morgan, originally from Elmira, New York, has been active in the struggle for human rights in Zimbabwe and to end the use of children as soldiers in central Africa. He has also played an active role in monitoring the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Scott became passionate about human rights after the riots in Los Angeles, and has written articles on the subject for the RPEC newsletter and other publications for more than 10 years. Although he lives and works in Farmville as a writer, he has volunteered for Amnesty International since 2000 and has lobbied on the Hill for U.S. intervention in Uganda.

Africa holds a special place in Scott's heart because human rights are so flagrantly violated there, and so few seem to care. By writing such articles, Scott hopes to increase awareness of a horrific situation and our government's lack of support.

from international governments, but not from the aid workers on the ground. Recently, NBC did a story for *Dateline* about the children of northern Uganda, known as “night commuters.” Night commuters are so named because they have to flee from their homes in the dead of night to avoid being conscripted into the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). The LRA has been fighting a bloody campaign to overthrow the government in Kampala since 1986. And it replenishes its ranks by kidnapping children at night and forcing them to kill their parents to

sever all ties with their past.

Recently the International Criminal Court indicted several top LRA leaders, including the commander, Joseph Kony. One LRA detachment left its base in Sudan to seek asylum in the Congo. As a result, the Ugandan Army was deployed to the border and there was able to force the LRA back into Sudan. Since then, several aid workers have been caught in the crossfire and killed. Two worked for the Richmond, Virginia-based Christian Children’s Fund. Although the Sudanese government supplied arms to the LRA in the past, today they are helping the Ugandans suppress the LRA.

Attitudes appear to be changing

Evidence of changing attitudes has surfaced in Washington. According to accounts by the press in Uganda, there is a new critic in the Senate. Addressing a group of Ugandans and supporters in Minnesota, Republican Senator Norm Coleman said it is time for the current president of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, to step down. This is a major development, as Senator Coleman has been a long-time supporter of Museveni and a key ally of President Bush. How this plays out remains to be seen.

^{*}In November, the Global Fund lifted the suspension of grants to Uganda. The grants were reinstated under the condition that the management of the grants would be taken away from the group within the Foreign Ministry that had misappropriated the funds.

Group Forms to Address Nuclear Terrorism

Edmund Rennolds

A new national nonprofit group, Citizens to Stop Nuclear Terrorism (CSNT), has been formed in Richmond to address the issue of nuclear terrorism. It will show a film produced by the Nuclear Threat Initiative, and facilitate a discussion, on February 22 at 7 PM at Richmond Friends Meeting.

Here is a briefing on the problem, provided by CSNT.

Imagine that you woke up one morning to find out that a major American city had been incinerated in a terrorist attack, with the death of half a million residents, 150 times the toll in the 9/11 tragedy. Imagine the psychological and economic devastation of such an event.

At least 600 tons of nuclear fuel is stockpiled in Russia. The United States has a huge supply as well. Each country has thousands of nuclear weapons. While security of the nuclear material and weapons in the U.S. is a concern, the greatest threat lies in the loss from the vast Russian nuclear complex, which includes hundreds of sites. The threat is detailed in a recent study sponsored by the Nuclear Threat Initiative by Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. According to the report, only about 46% of that Russia's nuclear material outside of nuclear weapons are in facilities with high security. Progress in securing the material has been slowed by bureaucratic wrangling in both countries and by Cold War suspicions that have recently re-emerged. Last year, only 4 % of the remaining unsecured material was secured. At the current pace, the material will not be safely stored until 2018.

However, there is some good



news, says CSNT.

Graham Allison, founding head of Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government and director of the University's Belfer Center, notes that the world's nuclear weapons and material are in a finite number of locations. The technology exists to secure them to what Allison calls the "gold standard", meaning the level of security at Fort Knox.

What is lacking is the political will and the resources to do the job quickly. What needs to happen?

Nuclear materials at main storage facilities around the world must be secured to the highest standard and removed from the vulnerable sites such as research reactors.

Meeting these objectives will require sustained leadership from Presidents Bush and Putin. Bush should appoint a senior White House official, with the access needed to walk in and ask for president action when needed, to lead these efforts, to keep them on the front burner at the White House every day, to set priorities, to eliminate gaps and overlaps, and to seize opportunities for synergy.

The effort on the U.S. side needs to be funded by \$3 billion a year, or three times what is currently allocated. This is less than one percent of the current U.S. Defense budget.

CSNT has a four pronged strategy to address the threat.

Create a web site, with information for citizens on the issue and what they can do about it. (www.stopnuclearterrorism.org/)

Recruit delegations of political, religious, student, scientific and civic leaders in each state to visit their respective Congressmen and Senators to discuss prioritizing and adequately funding the elimination of the nuclear threat.

Coordinate a media campaign that involves producing op-ed articles, encouraging editorials on the topic, requesting letters to the editor, and arranging for experts and others to appear on radio and television talk shows.

Mobilize citizens at the local level in meetings such as that conducted by the Richmond Peace Center.

Citizens interested in this issue should visit the CSNT website where you can learn more, add your name to the CSNT mailing list, and/or make a contribution to allow CSNT to expand its efforts. You can also contact Congress, write letters to the Editor, and get your friends and colleagues involved. Join Citizens to Stop Nuclear Terrorism at the Richmond Friends Meeting February 22 at 7 PM for a film and discussion about the threat of nuclear terrorism related to unsecured nuclear materials.

The program will begin with a showing of the short film "Last Best Chance," followed by a discussion of the issue and actions Richmonders can take to address the threat.

The program will be held at the Friends Meeting House, 4500 Ken-

(Continued on page 12)

**The Richmond Peace
Education Center presents:
The 2006 Peace Essay Contest**

Theme:

*How can peace be taught? How can
peace be learned? How can you
bring peace into your own life, and
the life of your school, family and
community?*

First Prize -- \$150

Second prize -- \$50

Third prize -- \$25

**Five Honorable mentions -- \$20
Prizes awarded in 4 different age
divisions**

Open to any elementary, middle, or high school student in central Virginia.

Prizes awarded at each school level: K-3, 4-5, middle, and high school.

Entries judged on content, composition, style and grammar.

Deadline for entries: April 17, 2006. Submit two copies of each entry, along with an entry form

Each entry must represent the original work of the student author.

Winners will be notified on or about June 1, 2006. Winners will also be invited to attend the Richmond Peace Education Center's annual concert in July.

The Richmond Peace Education Center works to build a peaceful community that

- Appreciates diversity.
- Resolves conflicts non-violently.
- Builds safety through cooperation and community.
- Shares economic and political power equitably.
- Takes its place within the community of earth responsibly.
- Empowers all individuals to live full and abundant lives.

2006 Peace Essay Contest Entry Form

Student Name _____

Home address _____

City, State and Zip code _____

Telephone _____

School _____

School phone _____

Grade level _____

School division _____

We hereby certify that this entry to the 2006 Peace Essay Contest is the original work of the student.

Student Signature _____

Signature of sponsoring
teacher, parent or guardian _____

Contest rules:

1. The contest is open to all elementary, middle and high school students in the Richmond region.
2. Entries must be limited to 1000 words or less.
3. Essays will be judged and prizes awarded separately at each school level--primary (gr. K-3), elementary (gr. 4-5), middle (gr. 6-8), and high school (gr. 9-12).
4. Submit **two copies** of each entry, and keep a copy for your records. Each entry must also include a **completed entry form** (above). No entries will be returned.
5. The final essay must represent the original work of the student.
6. Primary (K-3) entries may include an original illustration.
7. Entries must be typed and double spaced, or neatly and legibly written. Each page must be numbered.
8. Submission of an entry grants permission for the Richmond Peace Education Center (RPEC) to publish the essay or excerpts from it in its newsletter or other publications. Winning entrants will be invited to an award ceremony held as part of the RPEC annual concert in June.
9. Essays will be judged on the basis of content, style, composition, mechanics and usage. The decisions of the judges will be final.
10. Deadline for submissions is April 17, 2006. Winning entrants will be notified of the judges' decision by the week of June 1, 2006.

Mail this entry form along with two copies of the essay to:
**Essay Contest, Richmond Peace Education Center, 400 W. 32nd
St., Richmond VA 23225**

rpec.1@juno.com

(804) 232-1002

www.rpec.org

CALENDAR

Meetings of Local Groups

Every Sunday	Food Not Bombs Richmond-Meal Sharing , 4:00 PM in Monroe Park. Hotline # 359-4880 for details
Every 3rd Wed.	Amnesty International , University of Richmond campus. Contact Ray Hilliard at 289-8289
Every 3rd Friday	Sufi Dancing: Dances of Universal Peace , 7:30-9:30 PM except Oct. Round House, Byrd Park. 353-4901
Every Thursday	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 Saturday	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 Saturday	Pax Christi Peace Community - Call Paula Powdermaker for details - 355-7395
Every 3rd Sunday	The Richmond, Virginia Buddhist Peace Fellowship - holds a meditation vigil for peace in Monroe Park at 1:00 PM.
Every 2nd Saturday	Walk for Peace - 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM. Meet at the Boulevard entrance of the Virginia Museum. Wear black.
Every Friday	Protest the War on Iraq - Noon til 1:00 PM at 10th and Main Streets.
Every Sunday	Ginter Park Presbyterian Church peace forum - "What the Bible Says About Peace" - 9:30 AM

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUBREY BROWN PEACE FORUM Ginter Park Presbyterian Church at 9:30 AM Faith and Politics Issues

Feb. 5	Children and Family Concerns — <i>Ann Rasmussen</i> , Program & Policy Coordinator, V.I.C.P.P.
Feb. 12	Policies About Domestic Violence <i>Melissa Ryanball</i> , Student Intern, Ginter Park Presbyterian Church <i>Steven DalleMura</i> , Dir. of Legal Research, Office of Exec. Secy., Supreme Court of Va.
Feb. 19	The Theology of Politics — <i>Dr. Douglas F. Ottati</i> , Prof. of Theology, Union-PSCE
Feb. 26	Criminal Law and Justice Issues <i>D. J. Geiger</i> , Dir. of Legislative & Public Relations, Supreme Court of Va.
Mar. 5	Issues Related to Medicaid and Medicare <i>The Rev. Robert E. Knox</i> , Transportation Director, Va. Dept. of Medical Assistance Services
Mar. 12	Debriefing of the Virginia General Assembly <i>The Rev. Douglas Smith</i> , Executive Director, V.I.C.P.P.

Feb. 4	Help RPEC move! (Call 232-1002 for more details.)
Feb. 6-10	Help RPEC unpack in our new office! (Call 232-1002 for more details.)
Feb. 22	Citizens to Stop Nuclear Terrorism (CSNT) will present a program addressing nuclear terrorism on Wednesday at 7 PM. The program will begin with a showing of the short film "Last Best Chance," followed by a discussion of the issue and actions Richmonders can take to address it. The program will be held at the Friends Meeting House, 4500 Kensington Ave. The program, co-sponsored by the Richmond Peace Education Center and Richmond Friends Meeting, is free and the public is invited to attend.

Christian Peacemaker Teams Await News on Abductees

Angela Lehman-Rios

On November 26, 2005, four members of Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) were kidnapped in Iraq. Tom Fox, a Virginian; Norman Kember of England; James Loney and Harmeet Sooden of Canada were abducted by the group Swords of Righteousness, which threatened to kill them on December 8 if foreign militaries did not withdraw from Iraq. The deadline was extended to December 10, but nothing has been heard from the group or the four captives since.

Meanwhile, CPT continues its work in Iraq and in other locations around the world. As many media reports noted at the time of the ab-

ductions, CPT has a long-standing history of opposing the war in and occupation of Iraq. However, the mission of the organization is much broader: it "offers an organized, nonviolent alternative to war and other forms of lethal inter-group conflict."

Founded in 1986, CPT has sent teams of trained peacemakers to crisis sites by invitation of local peace workers. They gather stories, stand witness to acts of aggression or potential such acts, and participate in direct nonviolent intervention.

Full-time CPTers typically remain in an area for several months, return to the United States and/or their home countries to report on the work, then head back to the conflict zone to continue their long-term work. CPT also sends short-term delegations to these areas to listen, observe and then report on

their experiences.

More information about CPT is at www.cpt.org.

Group Forms to Address Nuclear Terrorism

(Continued from page 9)

sington Ave., on Wednesday, February 22, at 7 p.m.

The program, co-sponsored by the Richmond Peace Education Center, is free and the public is invited to attend.

**Support the Richmond
Peace Education Center.
Donate A Vehicle.**

1-866-628-CARS (1-866-628-2277)



Richmond Peace Education Center

400 W. 32nd Street, Richmond, VA 23225

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