



RPECnews

The newsletter of the Richmond Peace Education Center

September-October 2006

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*“Our lives begin to end
the day we become
silent about things
that matter.”*
-Martin Luther King, Jr.



Friday, October 27th, 2006

The Richmond Peace Education Center

Dinner and Auction

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

6 pm—10 pm

featuring

King Salim Khalfani 2006 Peacemaker's Award Honoree

Jim Bennett Jazz Ensemble Entertainment

Please plan to come and bring a guest.

For reservations, call 232-1002

See further details on p. 5

RPECnews

is a publication of the
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Education Center

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RPECnews are those of the
individual writers and are not
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RPECnews is published 6 times per
year and has a circulation of
approximately 1,000. We welcome
article and calendar submissions.
Deadline for the next issue is Nov. 10.

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Reflections from the Director

Adria Scharf

As we go to press, the International Day of Peace is approaching. Here in Richmond, multiple peace and faith communities have planned vigils, talks, proclamations, and prayers. In Washington D.C., the antiwar movement has chosen that date to urge the Bush administration to bring the insanity of Iraq to a responsible close. Worldwide, at least 1,900 organizations in 190 nations observed the day of peace this year.

The day has its origins in a 1981 U.N. resolution. In 2001, the U.N. declared the 21st of September of each year the International Day of Peace. The idea? To have the entire world observe a day of nonviolence, a global cease-fire in which individuals and nations pause, abstain from violence, and contemplate ways to make peace permanent.

What *would* it take to extend an annual 24-hour pause in the global bloodbath to last a week, a month, a year? What would it take to so transform systems of violence and injustice that lasting peace would truly become plausible—both globally and locally?

As the summer of 2006, a season marked by hellish violence in Lebanon, Iraq, Gaza, Darfur, and Afghanistan—and ongoing violence in our own streets—comes to a close, I can imagine no better time to think seriously about these very questions, and then put our commitment to building lasting peace into action.



The
INTERNATIONAL
DAY OF PEACE



Profiles in Peacemaking

Sweeping the Streets of Richmond

Jennie Jarvis

This summer, the Richmond Peace Education Center (RPEC) named King Salim Khalfani as the 2006 Peacemaker of the Year. RPEC and the Richmond community will honor Khalfani at RPEC's Annual Auction and Dinner on Friday October 27th at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

As I sat in the Virginia State NAACP office and waited to meet with Khalfani, I wanted to learn more about how he has gotten to this place in his life, why he does this work, what his hopes for the future are and how he sustains himself and maintains such an intensity in his commitment and work for peace and justice.

With laptop and cell phone in hand, Khalfani burst into the conference room where I sat. He welcomed me with a warm smile and handshake and explained that he would need to multi-task a little bit during our interview, but he assured me that I would have his attention. True to his words, during our one-hour meeting, the phone rang what must have been over 20 times while he uploaded information to a website, and very sincerely answered all of my questions.

Now the Executive Director of the Virginia NAACP, Khalfani remembers his first introduction to RPEC almost twenty years ago. His long time friend and current board mem-



King Salim Khalfani

ber Wendy Northup connected Khalfani to a new community organizing position that RPEC and the Virginia Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty offered jointly at the time. In this position, Khalfani reached out to the Richmond African American community on behalf of both of these organizations, and through this outreach, he worked to intentionally include African Americans in Richmond-area peace and justice work. After eight years of community organizing, Khalfani accepted his first position with the NAACP as a Field Organizer, which, after another busy eight years, led to his current role.

Khalfani's career path creates a long list of peace and justice organizations: the ACLU, Youth for Social Change, and the Virginia Anti-War Coalition amongst many others find themselves on this list. When he talks about the change he sees occurring today, he comments

on many small victories in re-districting as well as passing new bills and executive orders to help ensure economic justice and equality for all. He explains that we don't see the same large qualitative changes we saw in the 1950's and 1960's, but that does not diminish the importance of these smaller victories.

For examples of long-term success in peace work he cites the impact of this work on our children. He remembers facilitating RPEC *Undoing Racism* workshops in Richmond schools twenty years ago. Students, who participated in those workshops, now facilitate similar workshops in Richmond today. *That*, he emphasizes, is success.

Several times in our conversation, Khalfani indicated the power and importance of children in our communities; he believes that you can see life and death in children's eyes. As he now raises his own daughter and in December expects a son, he works to create a peaceful environment at home where his children won't want to be anyone but themselves. He wants to ensure that his children know he values them, so that they will also want to serve humanity, and join him in building a just world where everyone can reach their full potential.

His own sense of and love for hu-

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Profiles in Peacemaking

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manity originates with his own childhood and with his mother. An English teacher, his mother read to him regularly, and reading became a passion for him. As Khalfani highlights pieces of his childhood, he also mentions rebellions, boycotts, and killings. The compassion for humanity his mother instilled in him through books combined with the turbulent era and struggle for equality and justice laid a heavy foundation for his later political development.

“You’re either part of the solution or you’re part of the problem,” Khalfani quotes Eldridge Cleaver, the former activist and founder of the Black Panthers. These words have motivated Khalfani to participate fully in this struggle and not give up.

He points out that people have been fighting about the same things for hundreds of years; we need to make a qualitative change in the system so that we can help our children reach their full potential. This is the work of his heart. Khalfani describes the work as personal and difficult: every phone call is someone’s emergency, but he says, he is a servant. He still thinks of himself as the little brother off in the corner trying to make a humble contribution; he wants to be free and he wants the world to be free. So, he is fighting. He is fighting against capitalism and against war, and twenty years from now he expects he will still be fighting, fighting till his very last breath.

Khalfani comments that the problems in our world did not happen overnight. Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Khalfani watched as the Civil Rights Movement worked its way through the south, the north and through his family. His parents moved to Cleveland from what they referred to as “Bombingham,” Alabama. They still struggled in the north, but salaries were higher, and they hoped to provide more opportunities for their children. The family returned every summer to Birmingham, and Khalfani saw his family march, boycott and fight.

But Khalfani’s decision to dedicate his life the struggle came later, during his first year of school at Virginia Union University, with a series of events. An instructor handed him a copy of Malcolm X’s autobiography; Dick Gregory gave a sobering presentation to an audience of students on campus; and Kwame Ture (formerly Stokely Carmichael) visited campus and spoke about revolution, black power and the fight for humanity.

Ture became a hero and later a trusted colleague for Khalfani. Khalfani joined Ture’s work in the

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RYPP CR training reflects Khalfani's recognition of “the power and importance of children in our communities”

On August 23, the Richmond Youth Peace Project (RYPP) offered thirty area teens a full-day workshop in nonviolent conflict resolution. Students from two dozen local schools, ranging in age from 13 through 19, spent the day sharing experiences, examining the causes of violence in their schools and communities, and learning interpersonal communications skills that may help them find ways to settle differences peacefully. RPEC trainers Ram Bhagat, Paul Fleisher, Jennie Jarvis and Iman Shabazz led the workshop. In their evaluations, participants seemed especially enthusiastic about making connections with young people from other parts of the region, and in learning specific techniques they can use in their own conflicts with peers and family members.

The workshop was the first step in a more extensive project to create a cadre of skilled teen trainers who will then take the message of nonviolent conflict resolution to schools, community centers and congregations throughout the Richmond region. A second, in-depth workshop for young people who want to become trainers is scheduled for the weekend of October 21-22.

RPEC would love to hear from schools, congregations or youth groups interested in scheduling workshops with our newly qualified young trainers and their adult mentors beginning in November.

Profiles in Peacemaking

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All African People's Revolution Party (AAPRP) and became the Political Education Chair for Virginia. Khalfani explains that his relationship and work with this selfless leader transformed his personal philosophy and worldview.

During this time, reading *Malcolm X* and watching *Roots*, Khalfani began to reflect on his own personal history. Born with the name Edward Duane Hudson, Khalfani researched his past, and he discovered his name came from Great Britain, France and Holland. But when he looked in the mirror, he did not see these western European countries staring back at him. He eventually gave himself the Swahili name King Salim Abdullah Khalfani, which means "the servant of the Creator is destined to rule in peace."

It seems that Khalfani has taken each aspect of his life and worked out the implications of his struggle

for peace and justice so that he remains completely engaged in making change and helping others believe that change is possible. I asked Khalfani how he stays focused and how he prevents the obstacles on every side from overwhelming him. He acknowledged right away the importance of regularly re-centering himself. He pointed to history and the role models before us. Their stories are inspiring, but their lives were not easy. He described a conversation he had with Oliver Hill, a civil rights attorney, when Hill was 100 years old. Khalfani asked him how he had lived so long when so many others from the Movement had died so young. Hill explained that in many cases, their focus on the fight had been so myopic that it killed them. Hill indicated the importance of not only working hard, but making sure to play hard as well.

In response to this, Khalfani reflects on how many before us have died of broken hearts in the struggle. In

response, Khalfani has made great efforts to arm himself for this fight. He does this through incense, meditation, practicing Tai Kwon Do, and he makes an annual pilgrimage to Egypt, where he spends time re-focusing and re-centering himself.

After spending an hour with Khalfani, you can't help but feel inspired, empowered and ready to take on the world, so I asked him, how can others join you in this work? He had a simple answer, "Don't hate; participate, advocate, agitate, demonstrate, legislate, educate, and liberate."

He encourages each of us to join an organization because as individuals we can solve nothing. We need a collective group. We each have something to give, and together we have power to make change. Quoting Martin Luther King, Jr., he said, "If you can't do anything but sweep the streets, then sweep them!"

Annual Dinner and Auction Details

Mark your calendar for October 27 at 6:00 pm and make your reservations now for the Annual Auction! Come be inspired by King Salim Khalfani (see related article) as we award him the Peacemaker of the Year Award. Enjoy some wonderful food, music, and company. And come see the wonderful items we have for auction this year.

New this year, we will also offer the option of paying for your auction purchases using your credit card. We hope that will make your participation more convenient. And once again, we will provide a free pass for the parking garage for each family who gets their payment to RPEC by October 23. Tickets in advance (call by 10/23) are \$20 for adults and \$12 for children 12 and

under, with a \$50 family maximum. Tickets at the door are \$25. To make your reservations, call the office at 232-1002 Monday through Friday or e-mail reservations@rpec.org. Once you send us your check, we can get you your parking pass. And check out the items that will be offered at our website, www.rpec.org.

Consumers Corner

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables

John Gallini and Alisha Gallini

In the last two issues of rpecNEWS we offered a set of values that can influence how we make consumer choices. These included worker justice, ecological justice, compassion, solidarity, frugality and quality. In this article we would like to apply some of these values to one group of products: fresh fruits and vegetables.

Our procedure was fairly straightforward. We selected specific fruits and vegetables (see table below) and we picked several suppliers of those items. Then we visited the suppliers looking for where they obtained the products, the price of the item, and the quality in terms of freshness, taste, etc. Some of that is provided in the table. Finally, we added comments related to the values we were seeking to express.

First here is the table showing what we found (in early September) in terms of availability and price. Where the price is given in *italics*, the produce is locally grown.

Item	Farmers' Market	Carolina Mike's	Good Foods Grocery	Ukrops	Ukrops	Kroger	Kroger
Grade:	Some "No chemicals"	Regular	Certified Organic	Organic produce	Regular	Organic produce	Regular
Source:	<i>Local</i>	<i>Local</i>			<i>Some local</i>		<i>Some local</i>
Price:							
Apples	--	<i>\$1.69/lb</i>	\$3.25/lb	--	<i>\$1.40-3./lb</i>	\$1.89/lb	\$1.89/lb
Peaches	<i>\$1.25/lb</i>	<i>\$1.69/lb</i>	\$4.00/lb	--	<i>\$1.18/lb</i>	\$1.89/lb	\$1.50/lb
Bananas	--	--	\$1.00/lb	\$0.69/lb	\$0.55/lb	\$0.79/lb	\$0.49/lb
Tomatoes	<i>\$1.50/lb</i>	<i>\$1.99/lb</i>	\$2.79/lb	\$2.-4./lb	<i>\$1.48/lb</i>	\$4.99/lb	\$1.99/lb
Zucchini	<i>\$1.50/lb</i>	<i>\$1.49/lb</i>	\$1.69/lb	\$1.99/lb	<i>\$1.48/lb</i>	\$2.49/lb	\$1.69/lb
Eggplant	<i>\$1.00/lb</i>	--	--	--	<i>\$0.99/lb</i>	--	\$1.99/lb
Green beans	<i>\$1.50/lb</i>	<i>\$1.79/lb</i>	\$5.00/lb	\$6.65/lb	\$1.69/lb	\$3.49/lb	--
Onions	<i>\$1.25/lb</i>	<i>\$0.99/lb</i>	\$1.49/lb	\$1.-4./lb	\$1.00/lb	\$2.49/lb	\$1.99/lb
Red potatoes	<i>\$1.00/lb</i>	<i>\$0.89/lb</i>	\$1.40/lb	\$0.97/lb	\$1.19/lb	--	\$1.29/lb
Leaf Lettuce	--	<i>\$1.39/lb</i>	\$2.99/lb	--	\$3.00/lb	--	\$1.99/lb
Bell peppers	<i>\$0.75/lb</i>	<i>\$0.50/ea</i>	\$2.99/lb	--	<i>\$0.69/lb</i>	\$4.99/lb	\$1.69/lb
Corn	<i>\$0.33/ear</i>	<i>\$0.47/ear</i>	\$1.33/ear	--	<i>\$0.39/ear</i>	\$1.33/ear	\$0.33/ear
Sweet potato	<i>\$1.00/lb</i>	--	\$1.69/lb	\$1.99/lb	\$1.19/lb	--	\$1.09/lb

Most of the produce at Mike's (Midlothian Tpke & Tuxford Rd.) is from the Farmer's Market. You may have to pay a little more (sometimes not) but he is open seven days a week 10 am-6 pm and is conveniently located for southsiders. He offers other local Virginia produce not from the Farmer's Market such as tomatoes and green beans from

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Consumers Corner

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Hanover and apples from Virginia. He gets his peaches from Virginia when available, and then from North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. There is no certified organic produce. Amy's at Farmers Market is Certified Organic (and there may be others there as well). Kroger offers many good organic options but, steer clear of the items with excessive packaging. The bulk items are much better when considering the environment and tend to be fresher and better tasting. The larger Ukrops stores tend to offer more organic choices.

Prices on all produce vary daily. Often there is a wide range in prices for a specific product such as apples. Availability of specific organic items also varies daily. Organic is generally significantly higher in price but, good deals are offered when the stores have too much of an item on hand. So, checking prices every time you shop is a good idea. Also, approach the organic section with an open mind. Buy what is available and plan your meals around those items. This is similar to planning your meals around the weekly harvest with a CSA. Local produce is often labeled in all of the stores. Make it point to choose organic or local (or both).

How do our values inform these choices?

- Worker Justice – Fresh fruits and vegetables (other than local produce) are usually provided through large corporations. Multinationals that bring us tropical fruit (Dole and Chiquita are the largest) are notorious for worker exploitation and the exposure of workers to dangerous pesticides and herbicides. Even certified organic produce is harvested by laborers that are poorly paid (A 1999 study of 150 California organic farmers found that more than half paid their workers the minimum wage), although these workers are at least not exposed to the dangerous chemicals. As for the treatment of workers in the stores, we are not able to provide much help, except to note that what you spend at Farmers Market goes directly to the farmer, and the same is basically true for roadside stands like Mike's.
- Ecological Justice – Here we prefer certified organic and locally grown produce. Some, but not all, of the farmers at Farmers Market use organic methods. The woman I talked to said they did not use chemicals. Most fresh produce is sold “in bulk” so that you choose the packaging (or lack thereof). However, there are some examples of excessive packaging of organic produce.
- Compassion/Solidarity – Buying directly from the farmers or roadside stands seems the best choice here.
- Frugality – As can be seen from the table above, produce from the Farmers Market is no more expensive than that from other sources, so if that is an option you should try it. The trade-off can be the time and fuel to get to the Market on Thursdays.
- Quality – Our limited taste tests (our families), shows a significant taste improvement in organic over regular produce. Local produce tends to be significantly fresher than corporate organic and regular produce. Local and organic is the freshest, best tasting by far but it is hard to come by unless you join a CSA (which we have done and which we highly recommend).

To sum up, when the 17th Street Farmers Market is open (Thursdays, 8:30 am-2:30 pm, April through October), it provides high quality, low price produce that is also a good choice from ecological and compassion standpoints. Roadside markets can offer similar choices. You might want to organize a buying club to cut down on the time and fuel requirements. Of course, a Consumer Supported Agriculture program is also a good choice. During the winter months we try to shop a places like Good Foods Grocery or Ellwood-Thompson some of the time and to choose organic produce at the supermarkets.

A final note: The Sept 11, 2006 issue of The Nation, has an excellent series of articles on food and those that provide it.

Happenings at the Center

Recent Events

RPEC Around Town

RPEC has been participating in festivals and events around the Richmond area. We were at the Richmond Vegetarian Festival in July and we had a table at a September 9 health fair on Church Hill. We are also a sponsoring agency for the Family Peace Festival on September 17. If you know of an event we should be at, let us know. And if you can help out with tabling at events, we could use your help!

Upcoming Events

Torture and the 'War on Terror' Event September 27

As we go to press, RPEC is preparing for a major public education forum: *Torture and the "War on Terror": A Discussion of U.S. Policy*, on Wednesday, September 27 at 7:00 pm, in the VCU Commons Theater (907 Floyd Ave.).

The event, co-sponsored with Amnesty International USA, is a panel and discussion focused on U.S. practices of torture and abuse in the war on terrorism. Speakers include Jumana Musa, Amnesty International's Advocacy Director for Domestic Human Rights and International Justice; Tony Lagouranis, former U.S. Army interrogator in Iraq; and Jameel Jaffer, ACLU staff attorney and witness at the Guantanamo military tribunals. Our next issue will report on the forum.

Help Increase the Peace Program (HIPP) Training October 6-8

RPEC will reestablish its Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) program at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women in Goochland this winter. To become a facilitator, you must complete at least two trainings. An opportunity to participate in a basic (first-stage) 2.5 day training is coming up in Charlottesville the weekend of October 6. The training is in HIPP, a curriculum that is highly similar to AVP. Once you've completed the basic HIPP training, you can proceed to take advanced or train-the-trainer trainings in either HIPP or AVP. If you're interested in becoming an AVP facilitator, or if you're interested in doing conflict resolution training with the peace center in general, this October training is a great opportunity. For those who have completed at least the basic training in HIPP or AVP, there will be a train-the-trainer AVP training opportunity the first weekend of December. The October basic training is conducted by our friends at the Living Education Center in Charlottesville. The December train-the-trainer will be conducted by RPEC. Pre-registration is required for both. Contact the peace center for more details.

Talk on Nonviolence by Gandhian Scholar October 12

Join us for a talk by Dr. M.P. Mathai, a Gandhian scholar and social activist from Kerala, India, on

October 12 at 7 p.m. The event, co-sponsored by RPEC, Richmond Mennonite Fellowship, VCU's Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and VCU's School of World Studies, will be held at Congregation Beth Ahabah at 1121 W. Franklin Street.



Dr. M.P. Mathai

Dr. Mathai's talk will address the current relevance of nonviolent action both globally—in the context of armed conflict and sectarian violence, and locally—in the context of racially and economically based disparities in Richmond. He will weave into his presentation thoughts related to his next book on Gandhi and Jesus.

Dr. Mathai is a member of the faculty of Mahatma Gandhi University. His visit to the United States is being organized by the organization Nonviolent Alternatives in Brookings, South Dakota. The event is free and open to the public, although donations are welcomed.

November Event with Elie Nahimana

Elie Nahimana, a Quaker pastor from Burundi, will discuss healing and reconciliation after deadly conflict at a public event co-

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Happenings at the Center

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sponsored by Richmond Friends Meeting and RPEC. Nahimana is part of the African Great Lakes Initiative. The talk will take place in mid-November. Check the RPEC website, www.rpec.org, in October for more details.

10,000 Villages Special Holiday Shopping Opportunity December 7

How would you like to get your holiday shopping done early, support craftspeople from the developing world and help the Peace Center all at the same time? Mark your calendars for the evening of December 7.

The fair-trade store 10,000 Villages in Carytown is sponsoring a Community Shopping Night for us. They will stay open late, from 6-8 p.m. that evening, and donate 20% of all sales during that period to RPEC. We'll also be staffing a table with information about the peace center. So tell all your friends, and make a date for Thursday, December 7.

Ways to Support the Peace Center

Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign and other Workplace Giving Campaigns

Are you an employee of the State of Virginia? A federal employee? Does your office participate in any other workplace giving program like the United Way Campaign? If so, you have a terrific opportunity

to help the peace center. The Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (for state employees) will be held from October 1 through November 30. RPEC has been approved as a participating charity in this program. If you designate RPEC as the recipient of your pledge, RPEC will receive 100% of your donation. In addition, we will receive an extra donation of approximately 8% due to "matching," or undesignated dollars.

If your employer has a workplace giving program, whether it's the CVC, the Combined Federal Campaign, the United Way Campaign, or some other program, please be sure to designate RPEC as your chosen charity.

Donate Using Your Credit Card

As noted above, we are setting up the procedures to handle the purchase of materials using a credit card. That will be especially useful at our Annual Auction, but it also gives you the option of making your RPEC contributions using a credit card. We can arrange to set up monthly or quarterly donations, or you can choose to make your annual contribution this way. Call the office and we will set it up.

RPEC Recycling Program

RPEC recycles used printer and toner cartridges and cell phones. Thanks to our volunteers, we've raised hundreds of dollars to support RPEC programs this way.

We're starting a new school year, and we hope more of our members will be able to help us recycle these items. Please spread the word as widely as possible. Please

contact Paul Fleisher at the RPEC office (232-1002) if you'd like to help promote recycling for RPEC. He can get you mailing bags and/or cardboard collection displays. And give him a call when you have toner cartridges to be picked up.

Vehicles for Charity

Two of our members have donated proceeds from the sale of their used cars to RPEC through organizations like Vehicles for Charity. If this is something you might consider, call us and we will explain the options.

UKROPS Expanded Golden Gift Program

Are you a UKROPS shopper? If so, here's another way to donate to RPEC. UKROPS customers can register for the expanded year-round Golden Gift program powered by Benevolink. If you have not already done so, you have to register with Benevolink (go to www.benevolink.com). There you set up a username and password and select a charity. You have to log in every 3 months to make the donation. Once you've registered, whenever you use your UVC card you will accumulate money to be donated when you purchase Ukrop's branded products.

Office Equipment Needed

We need two surge protectors and two phones (with mute or hold) in the office. Does anyone have these items around the house to donate? If so, please call the office at 232-1002.

2006 Peace Essay Contest
Upper Elementary School Winning Entry — First Place
Katie Gilmer, Pearson's Corner Elementary School, Hanover County, Gr. 5

Peace

Peace is something our world has wanted forever. But it has always been stopped. Until we get it, the world will keep trying. Because, even one little person can make the biggest difference of them all.

We can achieve our goal of peace by doing a number of things. One of the most important things we can do, is resist being violent and staying off bad and illegal drugs. Even if it's a toy, why would you give a five year old a gun? Entertainment isn't enough to convince me, and many other people. The only thing this would be doing is risking having another violent person in the world. Think how horrible the world would be if all those toys bullets were more than just a pointless game. Just think. Violence and drugs go together like peanut butter and jelly. If a person is on bad drugs, they are more likely to be violent. If a person is violent, they will be greatly influenced to get on illegal drugs. Neither of these things would be able to exist, if our economy was peace filled.

Okay, but how can we keep peace within our schools? We

can be kind, and become friends with everyone, even if they are very unlike you. No matter what race or religion they are, they deserve a chance as your friend just as much as anyone else does. You never know, that new kid over there sitting over there by himself, might just end up being one of the best friends you ever had.

Now that you've applied peace at school, do it at home, too! By using compromises, we can get along with siblings and reduce fighting. Take responsibility for getting rid of the fighting. Both older and younger siblings can stop the fight by not starting one, or not getting involved in a fight with another sibling. Besides, is there really a need to fight over a pencil when there are 749 more in the cabinet? No, of course not! By not starting such pointless fights at home, we will become more peaceful one by one, and mom can say goodbye to her headaches.

Still fighting with friends and family? Maybe you should be more aware of your surroundings. Watch out while playing

basketball in the driveway. Try not to whack your little brother's friend in the head, and if you do, apologize and mean it. When riding a bike to a friend's house, follow the rules of the road to keep drivers happy with you. Now, you're fight free, and a step closer to having peace.

But now you want to share peace with everyone. Teach your friends and family to be peaceful. But, how? Well, you could talk to them about it, or you could have them read about it. Or, you could teach them by being. Set the example, and let friends and family catch on to your ways. Now that you know how, go and teach the world. Teach them, to create, and to be, peace.

By resisting fights, giving everyone friendship, and staying far away from illegal drugs and violence, we can bring peace. Children are the future. If we children can be taught peaceful ways, there will be a far more peaceful future. So, join the strive for peace. Yes, it sounds like perfection, and in a way, it is. But in lots more ways, its just people, working and living together, hand-in-hand.

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

October 6-8	Help Increase the Peace Program (HIPP) Training — Charlottesville — Contact the peace center for more details. See article in the Happenings section of this newsletter.
October 12	Talk on Nonviolence by Dr. M.P. Mathai — at 7 pm. The event, co-sponsored by RPEC, Richmond Mennonite Fellowship, and VCU's School of World Studies, will be held at Congregation Beth Ahabah at 1121 W. Franklin Street.
October 21	Talk by Sister Helen Prejean — St. Edward Catholic Church at 7:00 pm.
October 27	RPEC Dinner and Auction — St. Paul's Episcopal Church. To make your reservations, call the office at 232-1002 between 10 am and 2:30 pm, Mon-Fri or e-mail reservations@rpec.org .



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RPEC Web Page:
<http://www.rpec.org>

Sister Helen Prejean Returns to Richmond with the Virginia Journey of Hope

Jack Payden-Travers

On October 21 the annual Weekend of Faith in Action of Amnesty International will be celebrated across Virginia. Sister Helen Prejean will join the VA JOH and speak in Richmond on Saturday evening, Oct. 21 and in VA Beach on the 22nd.

The Virginia Journey of Hope will arrive in the Richmond area earlier that week. Murder victim's family members, death row exonerated, families of the victims of state executions and of those on death rows, along with death penalty activists from across the nation will travel throughout the Commonwealth from Oct. 13th through the 29th. They will bring a message of

reconciliation and share their individual journeys from violence to healing.

Please call the VADP office to arrange for these speakers to make presentations in your school or church, civic club or community center, or to arrange for them to visit along with you, your state delegates and senators. We have an opportunity to make some 30+ presentations in the greater Richmond area from Oct. 19-22. We are seeking drivers to take teams to various presentations, cooks to prepare meals and snacks, and friends who would be willing to share the sights of Richmond with these visitors. A detailed listing of the events planned will be posted on both the RPEC (www.RPEC.org) and VADP (www.VADP.org) websites.

The VA Journey of Hope with Sister Helen Prejean will be at St. Edward Catholic Church on 10/21

at 7:00 pm. The church is at the corner of Huguenot Rd and Dolfield Dr. Sr. Helen will speak the following evening at the Church of the Ascension at 4853 Princess Anne Rd in Virginia Beach. For more information on these events contact Pat Slater at the Richmond Diocese at 804-622-5128 or 804-240-0473; or Debbie Simpson at 540-891-7270."

The VA JOH will end at the Abolition Rising conference of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty in Fairfax, Oct. 27-29. This is a chance for all Virginians to learn the nuts and bolts of organizing to end capital punishment. For more information see the NCADP website www.NCADP.org. The annual conference of VADP will be held in conjunction with Abolition Rising.

For more information call Jack Payden-Travers at 888-567-VADP (8237).



Richmond Peace Education Center

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