

USNPCA Annual Meeting



The USNPCA Retreat/Annual meeting will be held October 8-11, 2009, at the Dumas Bay Centre in Federal Way, WA. The event includes Supper on Thursday evening, and Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner on Friday and Saturday and Breakfast on Sunday. The cost is \$221.51 and

includes the cost of the meals and lodging. If anyone is attending locally and just wants to purchase the meals, the cost is \$90.00 for all the meals. Payments for the event can be made out to Western Washington Nonviolent Peaceforce (WWNP) and sent to Bob Edgerton, 341 35th Ave East, Seattle, WA 98112.

The United States Nonviolent Peaceforce Chapter Association

USNPCA is an organization comprised of more than a dozen Nonviolent Peaceforce Local Chapters throughout the United States. Local Chapters were created specifically to support the work of the Nonviolent Peaceforce.

In January 2006 the Chapters came together as USNPCA and begin functioning as an independent member organization. USNPCA is strongly committed to NP and its mission. We exist as an organization to:

- Promote and publicize the NP locally, in the media, and through our networks
- Fundraise to support the work of the NP
- Represent the interests of NP within our respective spheres of influence
- Help with recruitment by actively soliciting applications within our networks
- Bring a regional Nonviolent Conflict Intervention training program to our communities, to expand the pool of people who are trained in basic skills
- Provide moral and financial support to NP field team members
- Provide volunteers in service to the Nonviolent Peaceforce

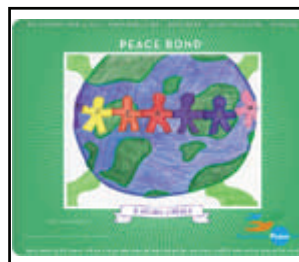
Mentoring Committee Reports New Contacts Leading to New Chapters

The Mentoring Committee, composed of Carol Miller, Clarkson Palmer, Terry Shofner and myself, has met by phone each month since our October conference. We are pleased to report that as a result of contact with people in Los Angeles, California; Midland, Michigan; Raleigh, North Carolina; and Washington, DC, we have new chapters forming in each of these communities.

We also followed up on a list, provided by the Minneapolis office, of over 100 names and emails from all over the country which turned out to be non-productive, apparently collected some time ago at various events on college campuses.

We will continue to check in with all of our chapters periodically.

Nancy Wrenn, coordinator
ncwrenn@aol.com



Remember! Peace Bonds® make wonderful gifts that help families in areas of violence around the world. They are easy to order online at nonviolentpeaceforce.org

Chapter News

NP Greater Boston (NPGB)

Our chapter sent 3 representatives to the October USNPCA annual conference in St. Paul, one of whom (Nancy Wrenn) retired from the coordinating committee and another (Judy King) who stepped up to join it! The third (Sherry Zitter) is a lead trainer for our NV conflict intervention (NCI) program.

In December, Nancy coordinated and Joan Ecklein hosted a FUNdraiser with Mel Duncan and a local a cappella group which raised over \$1000. Sherry and Judy presented NP to the Wellesley College Peace Alliance, and we got invited back to a conscientious objector event, which Judy attended. In January, we invited local NP supporter Fred Marchant, who'd just returned from Israel/Palestine with Interfaith Peace Builders, to share his trip and learnings with us. It was a powerful presentation, and we will invite him back to continue grappling together with how the force of nonviolence might be used in this difficult land. We also decided that rather than have monthly chapter meetings (which we all love, but we don't get much done in between), we'd have more frequent subcommittee meetings (currently training, fundraising, networking/outreach, and local website) and chapter meetings 4 - 6 times a year. This structure seems to be helping us do more action and less talk.

In February, we co-hosted at Sev Bruyn's home (with Veterans for Peace and a local Newton peace group) the first stop on a tour of Combatants for Peace, a group of Israeli and Palestinian fighters who have vowed to lay down arms and work nonviolently for peace together. A full house attended, and we were all very moved; a good deal of money was raised for their cause and important local networking happened among peace groups.

We also offered an NCI workshop (facilitated by Minga Claggert-Borne and Sherry) at a local UU church (which hosted and paid for space, food and copying!), organized by a woman who came to our

June '08 workshop. Two African-American nonviolence workers attended on stipend, donated by local chapter members, and consulted with the trainers afterwards about how to modify this workshop to fit better with inner-city teens and adults. The workshop was full and had a substantial waiting list. Unfortunately, most of them could not make our next date in March, which had to be canceled due to low registration. We will try again before long, and will invite those with other types of hands-on nonviolence training to join our next level workshop without the intro.

We will offer a second level workshop at the end of March, one of the 10 modules designed for those who wish to continue to form a local peace team. Not everyone attending will do that, but we hope some will.

Steering Committee member David Kimball has almost completed designing our local chapter website, and we are excited to unveil it in the near future.

Our networking and outreach committee has worked hard to make contacts in the local anti-violence community, meeting with the Cambridge Peace Commission and setting up future meetings with the Boston Women's Fund and a local tenants' rights group of women who are asking for help with a group with which they are in conflict.

Do you know that Pete Seeger's 90th birthday is May 3rd?! NP will co-sponsor a singing and FUNdraising event happening worldwide and with the Peace Abbey, called: "For Pete's Sake, Sing!!" If you'd like to know more or think about organizing your own event (very easy), email me at the address below.

Thanks to Judy for prompting me to write this and jogging my memory about what we've done. It's great to be asked to do this summary periodically--it inspires us to see what we've done, and what other chapters are doing, and to do more of it!

Sherry Zitter
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The USNPCA Chapter Newsletter is published quarterly, to assist the sharing of ideas, success stories, and important information among chapters whose members are dedicated to the practice of nonviolence, and the creation of a sustainable peace throughout the world. The newsletter is compiled by Marsha Carlson and produced by the Inter-Chapter Communication Committee. Information to be included should be submitted via email to: newsletter@usnpca.org.

Chapter News

Peaceforce Oregon

The outreach program, Adventures in Nonviolence, is nearing its end. Attendance has been low, however the connections made in the community have been beneficial in many ways. Next year the Peace Action Group of First Unitarian Church, downtown, has offered a permanent home for our Adventures. This will make them more cost effective. It will also afford us the ability to set a regular time each month for consistency.

In addition to the monthly Adventure, Terri Shofner has given talks at Portland State University, Portland Community College, and Concordia University. She was also invited to speak to a Catholic faith group following the Just Faith (www.justfaith.org) curriculum. All the speaking engagements were well received.

On the training front we have an NCI training scheduled for April 4th. We do not have ten registered participants yet, so we'll be trying to increase that number this week. Amy Gilmore-Cairns and Terri will be leading this training. We have a couple of participants that may wish to become trainers. We have also started a Facebook page which has helped in marketing the outreach opportunities. It's also been helpful in sharing news on Nonviolent Peaceforce. For chapters not able to start a webpage, this is an excellent alternative.

Due to financial constraints the chapter will not be tabling this Spring and Summer as planned. We will be less active these months and focus on developing a speakers bureau and more outreach and training programs.

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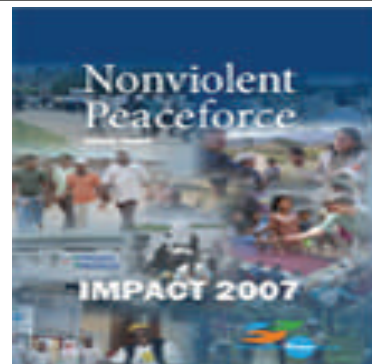
Minneapolis/St. Paul Chapter

There have been two exciting events in Minnesota. The first was the Annual Carnivale which the NP staff puts on. Chapter members helped in small ways and it was extremely successful, but it will remain in the domain of the staff with the chapter helping where they are needed, or asked.

The performance, Voices of a People's History, which took place at a local college auditorium holding 1800 people, was a roaring success. A separate committee, some of whom are Chapter members produced it. This is our third Arts for Peace venture, the first was a local painter and the second Poets and Potters for Peace. Every year there has been a new committee with some members being in the local chapter. It brings new talent and enthusiasm without wearing out our regular members.

The performance involved getting local performers, renting and dealing with the performance space, creating advertising including a postcard and a poster, creating a program and obtaining advertising for it, arranging for sales of Howard Zinn's book which was the basis of the performance, dealing with ticket sales. and planning and executing a reception after the performance. It was a horrendous undertaking carried off beautifully by the committee. The financial results are not yet in, nor has the committee had time to evaluate their efforts. However, we hope to have a packet and or a DVD outlining the experience so that it might be replicated by other chapters. This will be available in some form at our joint meeting in the fall.

Ann Warner
annandales@earthlink.net



The NP Annual Reports for each year from 2003-2007 are available online at nonviolentpeaceforce.org

Chapter News

San Diego Chapter

Greetings!

Our holiday season was fairly busy with tabling events. But before that Gloria Joyce represented NP on December 6 for a panel discussion organized by the United Nations Association of San Diego - "Why Should the U.S. Cooperate with the U.N. on Small Arms Issues?" Everyone was in agreement that we should curb the use and sales of small arms!

On December 13, we tabled at the Peace on Earth Holiday Bazaar sponsored by the San Diego Peace Resource Center. We had a drawing for a wonderful basket of food items prepared by Gloria, and two chapter members (Katrina Mason and Madelyn McKay) provided materials for making simple what-we-call Peace Dolls from felt and yarn. Both of these activities helped draw people to our table, and we had many sign up for more NP information.

In the new year on January 3, we participated in the UJIMA Institute for Civic Responsibility International Day of Peace again with a drawing for a basket of delicious food (prepared by Gloria) and making Peace Dolls (with Katrina and Madelyn).

February brought our regular chapter planning meeting on the first Saturday. Chapter member Corrie Ort organized a showing of the Nashville Counter Sit-in portion of "A Force More Powerful" at Miramar College on February 26. There were about 20 people who watched and participated in a discussion afterwards. Corrie will show the rest of the film on Saturday, March 28 with discussion to follow.

At our monthly chapter gathering on March 7 as part of the Season of Nonviolence, we offered "Living Nonviolence: The Wisdom of Gandhi" to a small group. We read and reflected on selections from Gandhi's writings and teachings, drank Chai tea, and shared thoughts and inspirations. On April 4, we will continue to study Gandhi's wisdom and practice nonviolent skills development.

On April 25, Gloria Joyce and Debby Park will make a presentation about NP and our San Diego Chapter to the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. We also hope to have another small CLARA skills workshop at Miramar College in April.

We continue to look for sponsors for the 1-day or half-day Nonviolent Conflict Intervention Workshops which we conducted last year.

Debby Park
rayandeb@gmail.com

Western Washington Chapter

Terri and Bob have been making progress on the retreat planned for October 8-11, 2009. Mel is planning to attend. David Hartsough is also interested. The need to cover their travel expenses is an issue to be resolved. Several communications have been shared with the mailing list. Some activity tabling at gatherings of the peace community have been organized and carried out.

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USNPCA Coordinating Committee

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To contact the Coordinating Committee,
please email cc@usnpca.org

Chapter News

NP Philadelphia

We have had no recent meetings, but have several planned activities:

Wednesday March 25, 4PM, Anne Moore related stories of NP work to the Crosslands retirement community, with some chapter members from outside the community also attending.

Saturday April 25, Dorothy Werner of the Chicago chapter will give a workshop on NP at the National Conference of Alternative Community Schools at Uppattinas School in PA, with tabling help from one or more Philadelphia chapter members.

Saturday May 16 will be tabling for NP at the Peace-Way Festival, Providence Friends Meeting, Media PA.

Saturday June 13 will be tabling at Birmingham Peace Fair, Birmingham Friends Meeting PA. This will be a joint display with Friends Peace Teams; Clarkson Palmer has been attempting to serve as liaison between NP and FPT.

Anne Moore is currently involved with helping with hospitality for the Walk for a New Spring, the group of Buddhist monks and nuns from Leverett, MA who left, walking, Feb. 13th to arrive in DC April 8. They are actually coming to West Chester March 21 overnight, which is a wonderful opportunity to both support them and spread their message to the communities through which they will be walking.

Clarkson Palmer
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Anne Moore
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Bay Area – San Francisco

Since our last update, Veronika and Marsha have been working on getting the chapter details in order (email list, checking account etc.) so we'll be ready to move forward. Marsha also helped Linda Burkett from the NP Fundraising Board USA coordinate a series of events here in the Bay Area where Jan Passion spoke about his recent trip to Sri Lanka and NP work in general, we had volunteer musicians, and Linda gave an NP slide show. Many new people had an opportunity to learn about and donate to NP.

For the future, the chapter will be working on helping Nonviolent Conflict Intervention trainers who trained in San Francisco last June to put on one-day NCI workshops.

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Veronika Safarova
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Important Contact Information

usnpca@usnpca.org – For general questions. The Inter-Chapter Communication Committee monitors the content and answers or forwards the messages when appropriate.

usnpca@yahoogroups.com – A listserv distribution for Chapter contacts and interested Chapter members.

cc@usnpca.org – email to all members of the USNPCA Coordinating Committee.

newsletter@usnpca.org – The place to send information for the USNPCA Newsletter. The emails are monitored by the Communications Team.