

IGC Representative Report

Dear Chapter friends,

I'm writing to you as one of your International Governance Council members from the North America region. Before I was on the IGC, I was very much involved in the activities of USNPCA, including editing this newsletter. I'm still a member of USNPCA, and while I love my new role, I do miss being able to spend time with you!

As promised, I will share news about our IGC activities in each newsletter. For this first one, I barely know where to start. Since the International Assembly in Nairobi last October when we were elected, the IGC and its various committees and task forces have been buzzing. Rather than a laundry list of activities, maybe I can share some observations about what it's like to be on this amazing body.

Working with people who live in conflict areas has been a learning experience. One of our co-chairs, Farrukh Goindi, is a journalist in Pakistan. Since the pre-election violence, including the assassination of Benazir Bhutto and other bombings, Farrukh has been covering the news and narrowly avoiding being injured himself. Another member, John Stewart in Zimbabwe, must cope with days without electricity and other basic necessities, along with inflation at more than 100,000 percent, and still manages to somehow find a way to call or Skype in to our meetings. So many of our members live with the threat of violence -- in Israel, Palestine, Bolivia, Chiapas...I am honored to be in this brave circle of NP believers.

The IGC has fourteen members, and there are currently open spots for four additional "co-opted" members who are appointed by the IGC, not elected by the member organizations like the rest of us. I am on a task force to help find potential candidates for these positions. We are looking for people with specific skills and experience to strengthen the IGC and NP, especially those who have high level

connections and who are successful at fundraising with governments, multi-laterals, and grantors.

As we evaluate the recommendations we'll be mindful of keeping the IGC membership balance between the global south and north. Also, our bylaws state that one person must be under 30 years of age. And gender balance is, at this time, quite unbalanced, with ten men and four women!

NP is doing such amazing work. I hope you have had the opportunity to read the Mindanao "May – December" report on the NP main page (www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org). It is an excellent project blueprint, detailing the connections the teams make and how they work. I know I learned a lot from this fascinating report, and it showed me once again why I love this organization.

USNPCA, as an NP Member Organization, has an important role in the success of Mindanao and all NP projects. In the newly adopted Long Term Plan, MOs are singled out as key to NP's success. We are, and will be again, asked to help in many ways, through fundraising,

Continued on the next page

USNPCA's Annual Gathering is in the Planning Stages

Planning is now underway for our annual gathering. We are working to finalize details to hold the gathering at the in Minneapolis. The tentative date is from Thursday, October 2, until Noon Sunday, October 5, 2008. Information will be forthcoming, detailing accommodations, costs, transportation, and program content. Please mark your calendars with the October dates.

The annual gathering is truly a special time for our organization. There's a photo by David Berran on page 3. As David summarized at the end of last year's Gathering, "We made new friends and colleagues from across the country. We enjoyed each other, and together we strengthened our commitment to the practice of nonviolence, to USNPCA and to Nonviolent Peaceforce."

promoting NP, and providing nonviolence training for the general public, local peace teams, and possibly for future field team members. Strengthening the Member Organization network by working in partnership with NP MOs in our communities is critical. Please contact our regional coordinator, Joan Bernstein, jbernstein@nonviolentpeaceforce.org, if you would like help building these relationships to help NP become stronger.

And as always, we need your help fundraising. By now you've heard that NP didn't begin the new year with the desired financial reserves. As you'll read in this newsletter, there are several options available to each of us to help fix this problem. I am committing to be a "One Percent" donor to NP. I hope you see something on that

list of actions that appeals to you too, as together we help support not only our brave peacemakers, but also the precious staff around the world who keep NP running smoothly.

In the next issue I will report back with more specifics about the IGC's activities. Please email or call me if you have any questions in the meantime. And thank you so much for being a part of a Chapter, even if you are its only member. Every one of us makes NP stronger!

Best wishes,
Faith Edman
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Chapter Reports

Greater Boston Area Chapter

The two year old NP Greater Boston chapter held its first retreat in September at Sherry Zitter's home. The purpose was to **reflect** on our accomplishments, **clarify** our intentions for the future, and **energize** ourselves to move forward with this work. Ten of our core group attended.

Helena Halperin led a field simulation exercise (the "Buddha statue"), that challenged us to think as field team members and make quick yet thoughtful decisions in an urgent and risky situation. We reviewed our mission statement (and that of NP globally and US Chapter Association nationally), and our activities over the past 2 years. Our treasurer, David Kimball, reported that we have nearly \$600 in our chapter bank account, and that the national raffle raising travel funds to our International Assembly for poor countries topped \$2000, thanks to aggressive work by Sherry and others on the national fundraising committee.

Sherry led us in an imaging exercise, which helped us share our visions for the chapter during the next year or two. Many of us spoke of connecting with inner city and local anti-violence groups. Others spoke of creating bridges between our chapter and other peace organizations, particularly member organizations of NP. Sherry reviewed the newly defined levels of organizational support for NP: - members, supporters and endorsers.

Nancy prepared and delivered a comparison between NP and UN Peacekeepers and the new proposed UN Emergency Response Force. The results note how dramatically less expensive and more flexible NP Peaceforces are than the UN.

Strategies and goals for the year included: networking and outreach, website development, fundraising and training.

October was a busy month in reaching out to new groups in New England. Members also tabled at a couple of local peace events, the United for Justice and Peace rally and the Cambridge Peace Day.

Helena and Nancy offered a Visioning Workshop - Imaging a World without War, and one on Third Party Conflict Intervention at a daylong Christian Peacemaking conference in Charlotte, Vermont. Another presenter there was Eric Bachman, a member of the International Governance Council of NP. Helena also spoke about NP with the Citizens for Global Solutions Mansfield, Connecticut Chapter.

Another highlight in October was the visit of David Hartsough. About 40 people attended the meeting at the Cambridge Friends Meeting House.

Continued on the next page

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 Paul Christian, chair of the Inter-Chapter Communication Committee. Information to be included should be submitted via email to peaceforce_agnews@yahoo.com.

David's self-effacing commitment to active non-violence reaffirmed our dedication and introduced new people to NP.

In January a new friend, who attended David's talk, hosted an orientation for others whose names we had collected at tabling events. Eight attended.

We are now exploring the possibility of introducing NP as an alternative to war to the local Iraq Veterans against the War.

Four of our chapter who attended the Burlington, NJ annual meeting now participate in the fundraising, communications, mentoring and coordinating committee work of the USNPCA. Spring training for people in the New England area is in the planning stages.

Nancy Wrenn
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Minneapolis/St. Paul Chapter

In Minneapolis/St. Paul we have been focusing on what we call informational meetings. We had one in Minneapolis in mid October and another in St. Paul in mid November. They were held in private homes from 6 to 8 PM. We had enough appetizers, one hot, crackers and cheese, vegetables and dip, and one dessert type item, so that people could have a make do supper or go on to another dinner engagement. We are fortunate to have Mel Duncan living here, and he has been the main speaker for the evening.

The chapter has chosen not to ask for money at these events, preferring to think of them as educational so that the word about NP gets out. We have assumed that donations would follow, and so they have. However we have been too hit and miss about following up the meetings with a direct ask either by letter or telephone. We are going to plan at least two more meetings in early spring after the "snowbirds" as we call them, have flown back to Minnesota.

An ad hoc committee has formed here. Last year a local, well-known artist offered to give her works to an art show with all the proceeds going to NP. The committee did a wonderful job of organizing an event around this gift. The show was planned to open on a Friday evening and be up through the weekend. There was an opening event on Friday, complete with flowers, a gorgeous array of food, and a short presentation by

Mel Duncan. Half way through the planning, the committee decided to charge \$20 for the event (this was an essential part of it). Proceeds topped the \$60,000 mark and almost all of the art was sold that Friday night.

The committee formed again this year, deciding to make an event dedicated to art an annual happening. This year it will be Potters and Poets for Peace. It will be held in February, from 1:00 to 7:30, with a poetry reading from 3:00 to 4:30 (by several prestigious local poets), a reception at 4:00. Again, they will charge for the event.

We are also reaching out to church committees about speaking to their groups about NP and plan to do the same with local peace groups.

Ann Warner
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Always a plus at the Annual Gathering is the opportunity to interact with NP staff. Mel Duncan (sitting, second from the right) shares a lighter meeting moment in 2007.

Philadelphia Area Chapter

The Philadelphia Area Chapter, together with the Crosslands Friends Worship Group, had planned a meeting on January 24 to hear from Carol Miller about the NP International Assembly. Earlier that week, however, Carol was injured and we had to cancel the session. We look forward to rescheduling it after she recovers.

Clarkson Palmer
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San Diego Chapter

Our chapter has had a busy fall and things are still happening! We conducted two 1-day Nonviolent Conflict Intervention (NCI) Trainings last fall. On September 8, Debby Park and Walter Davis trained 15 participants. Carroll Boone and Will Covert then trained 13 people on October 20. Also in September, we tabled for NP at two events for the 2nd annual International Day of Peace.

In early December, Gloria Joyce spearheaded a small committee of chapter members and other volunteers to host David Hartsough at the Church of the Brethren for a speaking engagement. We provided light refreshments and music, and about 40 people attended, and we collected over \$400 for NP.

On December 8, Marilyn Slater got volunteers to help at our table for the annual Peace Bazaar. This was our third year to participate, and they raised over \$400 for NP through sales of materials and Peace Bonds.

In January, we decided to work on increasing chapter membership by establishing dues. We devised a membership form and card to help increase phone contact with all people who express interest in NP and/or our local chapter.

We meet on the first Saturday of every month and include something educational to listen to or watch at each meeting. At our February meeting we listened to a CD of excerpts from speeches by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On January 7, one of our new members Anita Wucinic-Turner invited Carroll Boone to speak at the Peace & Justice Committee meeting of St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral. The church is now interested in having a NP presentation at a forum and possibly hosting an NCI training in the future.

At the January 21 we tabled at the All People's Breakfast remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We distributed a great deal of information in the morning and later at an afternoon concert. There was a great deal of interest for NCI trainings. We are continually seeking churches and community organizations to co-sponsor these trainings with us. We would be interested to know what other chapters are doing along these lines. Have you given any Nonviolent Conflict Intervention trainings, and where? Has anyone given co-sponsored training?

During February, we were asked to arrange visits for Mel Duncan with major donors in San Diego and in Orange County. We also planned an evening gathering for Mel to meet San Diego Chapter members and NCI trainees. There is also the potential for a reception for Mel which includes the opportunity to discuss the work of NP with community leaders.

Debby Park
rayandeb@gmail.com

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

We are currently organizing a Training for Trainers Weekend that will be held in mid-April or May. We have more than 30 people interested in becoming trainers, and additional folks are helping to organize the weekend. At this point we're settling on a location and pinning down the date.

One of our goals is for our training weekend to include trainees from diverse communities so that they can take their skills and knowledge back to their community and set up NCI trainings. In the process of creating this weekend, we've added new people to our chapter who are helping to organize, and hope that the training weekend and future NCI trainings will fuel their interest in continuing this great work. We're all very excited to be contributing to teaching nonviolence and spreading the word about NP!

Veronica Sfarova
veronika.sfarova@gmail.com

Important Contact Information

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

usnpca@usnpca.org – For general questions. The Communication Team monitors the content and answers or forwards the message to the appropriate person.

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

peaceforce_agnews@yahoo.com – The place to send information for the USNPCA Newsletter. The emails are monitored by the Communications Team.

Tucson Chapter

In September, Faith Edman traveled to the International Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, as one of the two representatives from USNPCA. Faith was also elected to serve as North America representative to the International Governing Council (IGC).

Also in September, Paul Christian attended a one-day NCI Training workshop in San Diego as the first step in offering NCI training for the Tucson area. We continue to seek organizations to co-sponsor NCI training.

In February we taveled at the Tucson Peace Fair. This is an annual event for us as we continue to spread the word about NP. This year we collected almost 20 new interested contacts. We are working to encourage these individuals to become more involved to help our Chapter grow because our small numbers make our large goals hard to accomplish.

Paul Christian
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Western Washington Chapter

During the past few months the Western Washington Chapter has remained involved in a number of activities. In September and October chapter member, David Berrian, was a delegate to the Nonviolent Peaceforce International Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya as a representative of the Buddhist Peace Fellowship. At the end of October Garland Minor and others organized a fund raising dinner at Café Flora (thanks to support of owner, David Foecke) at which slides from Kenya and stories from the International Assembly were shown.

During the holiday season we had several venues for selling Peace Bonds, including one inter-faith holiday fair at which we sold \$700 worth of Bonds. At the

beginning of December Mel Duncan was in the Seattle area and we were able to organize a public presentation with Mel talking about "The Future of Nonviolence". This drew a number of people who had not had much contact with NP before.

More recently (February 22-24) we organized a Training for Trainers of the one day workshop developed by NP on Nonviolent Conflict Intervention (NCI). Sheri Wander of Michigan Peace Teams and Sherry Zitter, coordinator of the Boston NP chapter, were the trainers and did really excellent work. We now have nearly 20 people in Washington and 5 in Oregon who are ready to organize and lead the NCI workshops.

This coming Saturday (March 1) the Western Washington chapter will meet for 4 hours at Bob Edgerton's house to plan our activities for 2008. We will be especially interested to plan how we will support the NCI workshops, how we will continue our on-going series of presentations on the practical alternatives to violence, and how we can support the leadership of the Northwest Nonviolent Peacekeeper Pool.

Coming up in April we hope to provide information about NP at the Green Festival in Seattle and at several of the Seeds of Compassion events (where H. H. the Dalai Lama will lead discussions on how to incorporate the practice of empathy in our educational and business systems). A few people are also working on developing an on-line study group on the alternatives to top-down organizational hierarchy that we hope will be helpful to NP in thinking about organizational structure and process.

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Committee Reports

FUNdraising Committee

Here are some excellent FUNdraising ideas from the committee:

How to be a 1% donor to NP? Just figure out what 1% of your income is (no rule - gross, adjusted gross, etc, whatever you can afford) and send it to NP each year. That's it! If you can't afford 1%, think about 1/2 %, or .25 %, or something that is affordable for you.

It's best for NP if your donation is predictable, such as in monthly or quarterly installments. Contact Natalie Brenner at nbrenner@NonviolentPeaceforce.org so your projected contribution is included in the NP budget.

Jan Passion raised over \$1000 for NP this year by sending a letter to friends, family, and community about NP's work, and why it is life changing for him and for our world. Jan poured out his heart and soul, and folks responded! You are welcome to use Jan's letter may be as a model. The letter is included in the fundraising section of the USNPCA website, or you can contact Natalie.

Make phone calls from the comfort of your home to past donors! I did this around Christmastime and once I got started, it was fun - some said of course and others had other priorities, but we always had a good conversation about NP. There are no special skills required. Contact Natalie for a brief training and a sample script.

Perhaps you know someone who works for Northwest Airlines or Sun Country Airlines. If so, please contact Sherry sherry@sherryzitter.org. I will contact them to see if we can get some free travel for Mel and Erika to help out our budget.

Want to help NP fundraise but no idea how to start? Let Helena Halperin, chair of our NP Fundraising Board for major donors; offer you and others a lively training via teleconference! Contact her at hshalperin@verizon.net.

Sherry Zitter
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Inter-Chapter Communication Committee

Website: Recent updates include contact information three of our newest chapters—Big Bend, West Texas; Chicago; and Peaceforce Oregon, in the Portland and Corvallis area. There is also updated material in in the Chapter Resources section.

Listserv: We continue to add interested recipients to the listserv, our primary means of increasing information sharing and collaboration between chapters. To join the listserve, please email name, email address, and chapter name to usnpca@usnpca.org.

Inter-Chapter Newsletter: The latest issue, Spring 2008, is in your hands. Remember, information for the newsletter can be sent at any time to peaceforce_agnews@yahoo.com.

Paul Christian was also asked to update the current NP PowerPoint presentation to integrated into the NCT training agenda. Paul is working with Joan Bernstein to adapt the core NP material of the PowerPoint so that it may be used in a variety of presentations.

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