

USNPCA Annual Retreat Scheduled in Boston in October!



The Greater Boston chapter is excited to welcome you all to Boston - October 7-10. We'll be meeting at the Walker Center in Auburndale, a short distance from Logan Airport and downtown Boston.

For three nights lodging and eight meals the cost will be \$230 plus your airfare. We hope to entice you to stay through Sunday and will offer several guided tours by car to historic and scenic sites.

Our members will be acting as B&B hosts as well for Sunday night if you can stay. See The Walker Center website at www.walkerctr.org for more photographs and facility descriptions. Look for the registration form and program early in the summer.

Contact: Nancy Wrenn ncwrenn@aol.com or Judy King jrk1956@comcast.net for more information.

Nonviolent Conflict Intervention Training Program Update

Since the last training committee report (as part of the minutes of the early October annual USNPCA gathering), there have been the following developments in the Nonviolent Conflict Intervention training program:

- The Twin Cities chapter hosted a dynamite weekend regional training of facilitators involving over 20 participants in late October, involving many from the Minneapolis/St. Paul area as well as from Chicago, Missouri and Wisconsin. Trainers were Madelyn McKay (of NP Canada/FOR Riverside) and Delia McGrath (of Buddhist Peace Fellowship). A number of participants have begun to lead full and mini-workshops.
- Beginning in November, there have been monthly mentoring calls for facilitators the first Saturday morning of each month, with volunteer trainers taking turns at leading these calls and also at being “mentors-of-the-month” to discuss training questions one-on-one.
- There are now local contacts posted on the USNPCA website to request NCI workshops in 18

places around the US and Canada—about half associated with existing USNPCA chapters.

- The activities included in the facilitators’ workbook are being used by many people for shorter presentations about NP to various types of audiences. The FOR chapter in Riverside, California completed in a quite successful pilot of teaching this curriculum as a course in 3 local colleges with a total of around 35-40 students, including training about 8 student facilitators. If you are interested in tips to try this where you are, contact Madelyn Mackay: madelynmackay@hotmail.com

Please let the training committee know if you are interested in becoming a new volunteer facilitator. With the improved manuals plus mentoring resources, new volunteers who have some experience with facilitation and role plays can work your way from shorter presentations to fuller workshops. If there are a number of interested new volunteers, an in-person training by an experienced trainer is also a possibility.

Joan Bernstein
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An Easy Way to Support NP

I want to share with you a simple way for you to help support NP--whenever you search the web use GoodSearch or when you purchase products on the web use GoodShop.

Just download the GoodSearch--Nonviolent Peaceforce toolbar at

<http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/nonviolent-peaceforce>.

Each time you search the web with GoodSearch's Yahoo-powered search engine, about a penny will go to NP! Also, every time you shop online at 1,000 participating stores including Amazon, eBay, Target, Apple, Staples, Expedia, etc., a percentage of your purchase will be donated to NP. The site also has thousands of money-saving coupons! To give you a

sense of how the money can add up, the ASPCA has already earned more than \$30,000 using this method.

Please tell other folks in your Chapter, your friends, and anyone else you think might be interested about the GoodSearch toolbar. This fundraising method has been featured in the NY Times, the Wall Street Journal, CNN, and more.

<http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/nonviolent-peaceforce>

Since many (most) of us regularly search the web, and many of us occasionally shop using the web, this is a very user-friendly way to raise money for NP.

Jan Passion

Acting Human Resource/Personnel Director
Nonviolent Peaceforce

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Chapter News

Greater Boston Chapter

Judy King represented our chapter at the annual USNPCA retreat in Federal Way, WA in October.

In 2009 we offered four trainings. We had a fifth training in 2010 and hope to offer three more trainings this year.

In November 2009, Minga Claggett-Borne, our senior trainer, with a young Haitian-American experienced trainer and two apprentice trainers offered an innovative version of NP for a 7-hour training at a Boston Public High School. Eighteen high schoolers came, mostly self-identified as Latino or African-American. It was a lively workshop. We did some typical NP exercises of "I" messages, Continuum of Violence, Active Listening in Triads, Fishbowl, and lots of role plays. The violence these kids experience is sobering. In groups of four they described times when they were jumped on the streets, their caretakers

were drinking and punishing them, and they had seen many friends and neighbors arrested.

The difference in doing NP training for teenagers is significant. Trainers *cannot* talk too much. Trainers need to affirm and validate the teens' experiences over and over. The pace of the workshop must be brisk with variety. We are pleased that Fenway High School invited us to come back. The training team would like to build our numbers and presence in colleges and peace groups, but hope to return during the next school year to Fenway. Other trainings during the past months were with adults, mixed in age and experience.

Mel Duncan and Tim Wallis paid us a visit in January. For most of us it was our first meeting with Tim. We are delighted to know him and so very pleased that he will return in October for our national conference here in Boston.

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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

Greater Boston Chapter (cont'd.)

Our training committee sponsored the first evening follow-up for graduates of Nonviolent Conflict Intervention one-day workshops in mid-April. Entitled "**Nonviolence in Action: Peace Skills in Daily Life**," the program reviewed basic communication skills via humorous role plays with volunteers and then gave people a chance to practice. Most of those who attended were at our most recent workshop, highlighting the importance of following up with people soon. We hope to repeat this program monthly.

Thanks to Terri Schofner, from whose "Adventures in Nonviolence" programs we took our title and some of our inspiration.

David Kimball, our tireless webmaster (and treasurer, and database manager, and ...) has created a beautiful and inspiring website for our chapter! Check it out at <http://www.nonviolent-peaceforce-gb.com/default.html>. We hope it can be linked from our USNPCA website. All feedback and comments welcome; it still needs some editing but it is up and running!

Nancy Wrenn
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Judy King
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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.

Minneapolis NP Chapter

Spring is a busy time for the Minnesota NP Chapter. On April 5th we held our fourth annual arts event. Voices for Peace was a concert of close to twenty talented local musicians, several from Prairie Home Companion. They gathered to rehearse at 5:00 that afternoon and produced a joyous and inspired evening. Everyone there was blown away by the concert, and we did get many names of persons who want to hear more about NP. However, although the financial results are not yet in, the audience was far smaller than we had hoped for. We learned that we must check a date more carefully. We knew it was the day after Easter, but did not realize it would also be the night of the basketball Final Four and the opening game of our Twins baseball team.

On April 24th three members of the chapter who took NCI Training in the fall had a successful workshop. Adele Lennig planned the day and produced an entire script for the occasion. She also wrote a fourteen-page helpful, concise and coherent Participant's Guide for the day.

May 20th the chapter, along with members of the Minneapolis office staff, will put on A Tribute to Mel Duncan. It is to honor him on the occasion of his retirement as Executive Director of Nonviolent Peaceforce; he is not, however, retiring from NP. The occasion will also celebrate his 60th birthday. Ken Ford is producing a collection of memories and tributes to Mel.

There may be some of you that would like to have a part in this celebration or collection.

If so, please send text and/or photos you would like to include to Ken Ford at kford5@comcast.net or mail hard-copy form to Ken, at: 839 River, Mews CT, Minneapolis, MN, 5514-3636.

As well as being a fun celebration, this will be a money-raising event. Erika Shatz will be introducing the Hartsough-Duncan Founders Circle that night.

Ann Warner
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Chapter News

Peaceforce Oregon

Peaceforce Oregon has held its second year of Adventures in Nonviolence. The series began in September and concludes this May. This year we worked with the topics presented in Coleman McCarthy's [Class of Nonviolence](#). Our program was generously hosted by the Peace Action Committee of First Unitarian Church of Downtown Portland. This year the number of participants increased significantly when PSU professor Tom Hastings offered extra credit to his students in the Conflict Resolution program.

We've averaged 25 attendees for the past three months. I look forward to offering it again next year and extending similar invitations to students at Portland University.

Our chapter has otherwise been quiet as I've been busy with moving and other local peace efforts. I'm now member of the Whitefeather Peace Community and sit on the board of the Oregon Peace Institute. It is hoped that my affiliation with OPI will provide more opportunity for outreach and education on the work of Nonviolent Peaceforce.

Terri Shofner
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Philadelphia Area Chapter

Chapter members Jorge Arauz and Beatrice Scholz conducted a one-day Nonviolent Conflict Intervention Training workshop in Philadelphia in October. Both had participated in the training of trainers in Swarthmore in 2008. More one-day training sessions are anticipated.

The new NP DVD on Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping was well received in November at Crosslands retirement community, joined by residents of neighboring Kendal retirement community. This was co-sponsored by the NP chapter and the Crosslands Friends Peace and Social Concerns Committee.

The next showing of this DVD was cosponsored on February 7 in Philadelphia with the corresponding committee of Central Philadelphia Friends Meeting.

Then we suffered the loss of a senior peace activist, George Willoughby, a valued participant in the foundation of NP and in the development of our chapter. His memorial service was scheduled for February 6 at Central Philadelphia Meeting, and NP's new Executive Director, Tim Wallis, planned to attend, and agreed to come to our February 7 meeting.

A huge winter storm postponed the memorial service to Feb. 7, later in the afternoon, so we were able to have a great if brief meeting with Tim Wallis before the service. The next day we had another meeting with Tim at the Hickman Home in West Chester.

Our good luck continued in April when Mel Duncan was traveling in our area and had time for presentations, on April 9 at Crosslands and at the Unitarian Fellowship in West Chester, and on April 10 at Medford Leas retirement community in New Jersey.

Clarkson Palmer
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NP San Diego

Chapter Chair Debby Park attend the USNPCA Conference in Seattle in October where she met wonderful people from other chapters and from the NP staff, learned and shared so much. Attendees wished every chapter could be represented next time. Highlights were presentations by Rita Webb, former Field Team member in Sri Lanka, and the reunion of Mel Duncan and David Hartsough!

We try to meet monthly. In October we screened NP's new DVD and were very impressed. At November's meeting we heard Debby's conference report and watched a DVD interview of Rita Webb made while she was in Sri Lanka.

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Chapter News

In December, we tabled at the annual Holiday Peace Bazaar and raised \$153 for NP through Peace Bond sales and Peace potholders (a popular item made by a former chapter member). We also tabled at the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. All People's Breakfast in January and distributed hundreds of NP & Peace Bond brochures.

In March, we devoted our meeting to "Living Nonviolence: the Wisdom of Gandhi" where we meditated on and discussed Gandhi's writings and actions of nonviolence and enjoyed Chai tea and healthful snacks. This month (April) we discussed examples of nonviolent skills used to interact with loud and hostile protesters at a healthcare forum and by Joan Baez prior to a concert she gave. We'd like to continue honing our own NCI skills with other role-plays at our next meeting which will be in June.

Madelyn MacKay has shared many ideas and much NCI expertise with us the past few years when she has been in the San Diego/Riverside area during the academic year. She has now returned home to British Columbia where she hopes to continue to be involved with NP. We will miss her and her enthusiasm.

Debby Park
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Tucson Chapter

The most important event for the Tucson Chapter this quarter was the hosting of a one-day NCI Workshop in late February. Thirteen enthusiastic Tucsonans attended the workshop, with ages ranging from a high-school senior to several over age 60. Participants included two teachers and several social activists. Others attending were affiliated with the groups No More Deaths and Samaritan Patrol. Both of these organizations provide humanitarian aid to migrant border crossers.

Madelyn MacKay and Marilyn Sequoia, the two facilitators who traveled from the Los Angeles area, did a wonderful job. All participants were engaged with the materials presented, taking away several of the inter-active exercises to use with their own organizations. After expenses were covered, we were able to send a check for \$139 to NP.

The consensus of the participants, gathered from the comment sheets, was very positive, and we hope the experience can lay the groundwork for future expanded workshops, perhaps including local peacekeeping.

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