

# USNPCA Chapter Conference Notes Oct. 7-10, 2010

***5th Annual Conference held this year at Walker Center, Auburndale, Mass.  
Hosted by Greater Boston Chapter***

First of all, many thanks to Judy King and Nancy Wrenn for securing the Walker Center and for planning much of our agenda. The Center was a wonderful place to meet, and we all enjoyed the delicious meals. Thanks also to Sherry Zitter, Minga Claggett-Borne and Jonathan Borne and friends for some terrific music and sing-alongs. The Coordinating Committee also appreciates so much all those who made presentations during our weekend and all who came to participate – hope to see many more people at our 2011 conference!

The conference began Thursday, Oct. 7 with a welcome and buffet supper followed by an informal gathering where many of us met for the first time NP's new Executive Director Tim Wallis.

## ***Friday, October 8***

### **Chapter Check-in –**

What we've been doing this past year:

***Portland:*** Terri Shofner's Adventures in Nonviolence program has concluded and many of the student members of the chapter have moved on. Now will study how to counter street violence.

***Chicago:*** Dorothy Werner reported that her NCI Training partner is working with the Listening Project. A Global Activism Expo generated some interest in NP. Tabled at Jain ecumenical peace conference. Would like to have workshops with teenagers. Hosted Mel Duncan for 5 days during which he did a radio interview.

***Boston:*** Sherry Zitter and the NCI Training Committee have been active. Did 4 trainings last spring (some with Veterans for Peace), including two at Brandeis U. and one in a high school. Minga Claggett-Borne hosts a monthly Nonviolence in Action at her home where trainees come to role play different scenarios to practice their NCI skills. Tim Wallis spoke to the chapter in January. They've held several introductions to NP in various places, raised money for trainings, and have tried to connect with other Third Party Intervention groups.

***Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN area:*** Linda Burkett said they meet occasionally in the NP office. Had an arts-related event in April to raise funds. Did a tribute to Mel Duncan. Probably won't do carnival/bake sale any more. Joanna Morse asked them to develop pilot of "chapter in a box" doing one outreach, one educational and one fundraising event for NP a year.

**Philadelphia, PA area:** Clarkson Palmer said they are planning the event to honor David Hartsough. Hosted Tim Wallis and Erika Schatz, did three tablings, had a 1-day NCI workshop to follow NCI Training for Trainers. Have 300 names on mailing list but haven't met as a chapter for a year.

**Bucks County, PA:** Although Carol Miller now lives in Baltimore, she still reports on Bucks County which has two active members. They tabled at the County Peace Fair and will talk about NP at a potluck.

**San Diego, CA:** Debby Park reported that her chapter (6-10 members) meets monthly (except in summer), tables at numerous events, and has done some presentations about NP. They also practice NCI skills after each chapter meeting or watch and discuss DVD's related to NP or nonviolence. Have held Wisdom of Gandhi gatherings for past two years. Debby wants to get back to holding NCI workshops which they haven't done for about 2 years. Erika Schatz was in San Diego last May and made some contacts for fundraising.

**Tucson, AZ:** Madelyn Mackay (who is actually from Canada but has been spending the last several school years in southern California) conducted a 1-day NCI workshop for them last year. Chapter is small but trying to stay active.

**Riverside, CA:** Riverside has an active FOR (Fellowship of Reconciliation) group. Madelyn M. worked with Linda Dunn, Rose Monge and Marilyn Sequoia last spring to put on several NCI workshops and/or classes/presentations in three colleges there. Very good response to these.

Not all chapters were represented. As you can see from the above, chapters vary widely in size and activities.

### **USNPCA - Background of where we are as an organization:**

We started as affinity groups wanting to support the work of NP who formed, in 2006, a rather loose association of "chapters". As such, we constitute a Member Organization of NP. But we do not have any organizational paperwork or mailing address. We did form committees (Coordinating, Communication, Training, Fundraising, Mentoring) that function to varying degrees. Thanks to Terri Shofner, we now have a website

<http://www.usnpca.org> which functions as our organizational hub.

With the restructuring/streamlining of NP and the focus on support of Field Teams, how will we fit in? Will our job be mostly fundraising? We will continue to have a representative to the IGC (International Governing Council) because we are a Member Organization. And, although NP will no longer sponsor NCI trainings, we can continue to hold workshops. We decided we need to brainstorm what we want to be and do as an organization and for NP since "we are the beloved community."

Terri read the USNPCA Mission Statement and Statement of Purpose for us to think about before brainstorming. These statements can be viewed on Home Page of [www.usnpca.org](http://www.usnpca.org).

### **Tim Wallis: Restructuring Q & A:**

Tim was introduced and we learned of his extensive background and experience with many different peace groups/organizations. He then explained the need for restructuring NP although this has meant cutting salaries and even positions - not something he was happy to do. We have to commit our financial resources to keeping the peace teams in the field but also find ways for them to exit having trained locals to continue NP's work. And he sees a great need for showing the world that NP is doing something new and different and very effective.

NP has a budget this year of \$5 million. Most of it is for specific projects and is spent as soon as it comes. There is a big need to establish infrastructure (including human resources and public relations) and financial stability so that bills and salaries can be paid on a regular basis and so that we can expand our ability to respond when there is a sudden need for our peacekeepers (not enough are trained right now). Need to convince the U.N. and the world that unarmed civilian peacekeeping is so much more effective and less expensive than armed peacekeepers. And NP needs to be truly international in every aspect.

(USNPCA would like to know who will be in charge of what in the NP USA office once restructuring is done.)

### **USNPCA Updates:**

#### **Coordinating Committee:**

Members are Terri Shofner (Portland), Dorothy Werner (Chicago), Judy King (Boston), Debby Park (San Diego) who conference call once a month. Report on chapter activities, USNPCA website, database (still a work in progress!). Reviewed the NCI training manuals developed by Joan Bernstein. And spent 6 months planning this conference.

#### **Communications:**

Paul Christian (Arizona), due to health issues will no longer be able to produce the USNPCA newsletter (about 3 times/year). Terri has taken over administering the website and database. We will determine the best way to fill the gap left by the newsletter.

#### **North American Regional Training Program:**

Joan Bernstein (San Francisco) gave background on how and why training developed. The regional training program was part of the capacity building department of Nonviolent Peaceforce. The USNPCA has supported this program by hosting NCI workshops and three day trainings for facilitators. The Minneapolis chapter hosted the longer peace team training in preparation for the Republican National Convention. In the restructuring NP has eliminated the capacity building department and with that the training program. The USNPCA will continue to support as it always has, but is not able to be a fiscal backer for the program. Outside fiscal sponsors for the program are being evaluated, including the METTA Center in Berkeley.

As the Regional Coordinator, Joan often heard "What are we doing about violence in our own communities?" What could people do in support on nonviolence who couldn't become NP peacekeepers? Began to develop NCI and local unarmed civilian peacekeeping by initiating Training for Trainers for NCI and, subsequently, three NCI manuals (Facilitator's Workbook for Nonviolent Conflict Intervention One-Day Curriculum, Participant Handbook for NCI One-Day Workshop, and Audience Recruitment and Workshop Logistics Handbook). The Training Committee had conference calls throughout the year (until summer) to review and revise different aspects of the manuals. Curriculum developed for community outreach to be available to mainstream population. Some Training funds were used to send trainers to train others. NCI workshops now being used less for NP outreach and more for individual volunteers' local concerns. The manuals will be revised to remove NP name from the cover but they still showcase how NP uses the NCI skills in real scenarios used throughout the training curriculum. Workshops will no longer request donations to NP to cover training materials. Although she is no longer employed by NP, Joan will continue to work on the Local Peacekeeping curriculum and competencies.

### **Fundraising:**

Linda Burkett's report follows later.

### **Mentoring:**

Carol Miller (Baltimore) said the committee didn't meet. Could use more people on it. Purpose is to support and stimulate formation of new chapters. There is a Chapter Development Resource on the website that groups could use. Terri might try to break it into smaller components. Getting database up and running might also help in forming chapters.

Some things to consider for USNPCA brainstorming session:

1. What is the goal of our organization?
2. What will be our relationship to NCI trainings and shall we develop domestic peacekeeping teams?
3. Do we want to have an individual membership category?

4. How can the website and database help?

5. Look at Nancy Wrenn's detailed Membership Organization Proposal which includes studying Structure (should we have elected officers and an elected Board?, Dues? Membership benefits?), Possible role of a paid coordinator/staff person on NP USA, Become a non-profit, tax exempt organization?

At lunchtime, Sherry Zitter led us in honoring Joan Bernstein for her dedicated and outstanding service to Nonviolent Peaceforce both as a volunteer and as a staff member these past years. We each had a chance to say how she has supported and encouraged us in promoting NP and in conducting NCI trainings. We will miss her!

### **USNPCA website tour and how to use it:**

Terri gave us a detailed hand-out showing the General User level tabs and the group tabs (e.g. NP staff, Facilitators/Trainers, Washington DC Chapter). In order to go beyond the visitor level, we must Login/SignUp at bottom of page. Then we can create an account and select any groups we want to sign up with, which Terri then approves. After that we can access other tabs and join other groups. We will be able to post upcoming events for our chapters, find out contact people for each chapter/group, get NCI info, annual meeting notes, etc. Under Member Resources, we can access Presentation materials, Peace Bonds, NCI manuals.

Eventually, we will have a USNPCA database. This will be different from the NP database. We will be able to add people as contacts and customize the data included according to the person's preferences. Eventually, we will be able to generate mailings to specific groups.

### **Contacts with other Member Organizations and Support Organizations:**

Our Chapter Association is a Member Organization of NP, along with 67 others from 40 countries. Each MO has one vote to elect the International Governing Council. Member Organizations are "non-governmental Civil Society Organizations (CSO's) of international, national or regional scope committed to regular, substantial work to support NP's mission and uphold NP's non-partisanship" (description taken from the NP website). Support Organizations are CSO's that wish to be publicly identified as NP Supporters and take action at least once a year to support NP's mission by publicizing field team recruitments, donating use of meeting space for events and trainings, fundraising, participating in the Emergency Response Network, or compatible support activities. The IGC is doing a general review of MO's and wants to keep a balance of representation from all over the world. Veterans for Peace is no longer an MO but an SO.

Many chapters already have a working relationship with local Nonviolent Communications, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Buddhist Peace Fellowship, Veterans for Peace, Quaker groups. It is good to co-sponsor workshops with them. We will need to

inform each other (through our website) of these contacts since there won't be an NP staff person doing this. Support organizations can be churches and other peace/nonviolent groups who hold NP presentations and NCI workshops. We have to be careful to maintain NP's non-partisan status in our contacts/affiliation with other groups.

**Ideas from Brainstorming session:**

*The purpose of the brainstorming session was to think of what might make our organization better. With NP going through reorganization it seems a good time for us to reflect on how we have fulfilled our mission, even re-examine our mission to ensure it fits with the desires of the chapters. We will then organize a task force to focus on these issues this coming year and to develop possible plans to present and vote on at next years meeting.*

make USNPCA name more inclusive (N. America or Americas), actually change name?

include "non-partisan" in Mission Statement and more emphasis on "nonviolent"

keep organization non-hierarchical, Coordinating Committee could serve as Board of Directors, 3-yr terms for members, monitor committees

individual memberships good idea, have list of suggested ways to get involved

Should we have dues (funds above operating costs could go to NP)? Staff person or hire an Executive Director? Should USNPCA apply for non-profit status? Need to discuss more.

chapters be separate from trainings?

dialogue with other nonviolent groups and involve with chapter

each chapter decides how they want to be involved with NP and if they will stay involved with training?

our Mission needs to focus on what is unique about NP and we all need to understand that better as NP restructures and decides focus

launch NP into the world through more education

should chapters concentrate more on developing domestic civilian peacekeepers to help with border problems, gangs, violence in cities, bullying (Boys and Girls Clubs are developing anti-bullying curriculum), intolerance?

reach out to Muslim community, offer multiple languages in reaching out to other groups, find out their concerns

need to develop our database or have some access to NP USA database

will our emphasis continue to be nonviolent 3rd party intervention or exercising nonviolence in our lives? What can we offer as follow-up to people who've been trained in NCI? Local domestic peacekeeping or other organizations that use peace volunteers? (AFSC and UU have such programs for younger people)

### **Fundraising ideas from Linda Burkett:**

57% of funding now comes from government grants and 29% from individual donors. 10% of people who donate give 90% of the funds! NP needs more donors from the "rank and file" to even out the donor base. NP has a fundraising board (instead of a Board of Directors with fundraisers on it). IGC governs and decides running of the organization but does not raise funds. Chapters are encouraged to recruit donors both large and small.

We gave examples of some fundraising ideas our chapters have used: selling Peace Bonds, a plant sale, house meetings, arts and crafts fair, could sell bumper stickers or T-shirts as conversation starters. Madelyn has brought materials for making "peace people" to tabling events - draws people to the table and they might buy a Peace Bond, etc. Linda suggested individuals could do fundraising calls even if they are not in a chapter. She has learned with her calls that not everyone minds being called or learning about NP. Linda has a great page of ideas on how to handle phone calls so that the person will want to talk with you! And, if a donor can't contribute at that time, perhaps they could host an informational house party. Mel Duncan and Erika Schatz are GREAT to have at a house party. Just talking enthusiastically about NP can get results because people want to donate to a worthwhile cause that increases the happiness level of the world!

### **International Governing Council - Eric Bachman:**

Eric went to Germany in 1969 as a Conscientious Objector. Remained there and worked in peace movement, especially International Fellowship of Reconciliation, for 36 years. Returned to US in 2005. Since 1971, he has organized trainings in many countries on nonviolence. Was recipient of Peacemaker of the Year award from the Brethren Peace Fellowship. Has been a member of NP's International Governing Council (IGC) since 2003 and Treasurer since 2005. Many members of IGC are peace activists and come from many countries. They are learning how to govern such a group using consensus - difficult, but it works. There are 11 active members - some vacancies need to be filled to bring group to 14-18. They meet every two months by phone. Eric convenes the Finance Committee every first Tuesday. There are different committees and task forces. Now there is a Task Force on Membership. European MO's are active and meet regularly with IGC members. Less activity from MO's in Asia, Africa, Latin America. Task Force on Streamlining Governance to study how NP USA, NP Belgium and IGC (each has a separate Board) should interface.

Big concern for IGC now is how to grow the organization. Have had to postpone some meetings due to finances. IGC decides what projects to start and stop and what the budget will be. But it is not involved with the day-to-day decisions that happen where peacekeeping teams are active. The Executive Committee of IGC can meet more frequently and make quicker decisions if needed. In Sri Lanka, the new country director will assess the situation and give report to IGC in January. Then will need to devise an exit strategy which could be quick or could last a year. Would like to give 15 months notice to field team and country and would like to find way to support the Sri Lanka nationals on NP staff from outside Sri Lanka. Funds are needed even to close a project, but there is still some funding dedicated to Sri Lanka, including a couple of large grants.

### **NP Peacebuilding and UN Peacekeeping - Contrasts: Panel discussion with David Grant, Ali Palh, and Nancy Wrenn:**

Nancy has been a UN observer. Are UN peacekeeping missions capable of preventing genocide? There have been 63 missions on four continents, 15 missions active at the moment. Cost is \$7 billion for peacekeepers, which is 1% of total world military spending. Need a Code of Conduct for peacekeepers and need to include more women peacekeepers. The UN peacekeeping missions have a national identity which NP peacekeepers do not. Difficult to deploy UN missions because both sides of conflict have to ask the UN for a peacekeeping mission.

David has worked with UN in past and was instrumental in getting NP its special consultative status to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSAC). Had to get 20 countries to support NP. China and Israel objected - China because Dalai Llama and Friends of Tibet were MO's of NP. He also met with UNICEF (UN International Children's Emergency Fund) to get their support for NP child protection. David is meeting with the UN Development Program and Dept. of Political Affairs. UN can't go to certain hot spots in the world whereas NP can (NP is not restricted.) And the Canadian mission to UN (thanks to influence of NP Canada) recently gave a great presentation about NP to the UN. This led to a meeting of people from various UN divisions with Mel Duncan, Tim Wallis, David Grant, and Rolf Carriere - the group likes idea of NP. Support can lead to NP's having influence in two directions: 1) conceptual - unarmed civilian peacekeepers working with peacekeeping missions, and 2) UN will put NP's training on their online training site if we can come up with \$35,000!

Ali is from Pakistan and was a Field Team member in Sri Lanka. He is now a graduate student at Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Ali explained that the UN is directed by mandates and that the backbone of UN peacekeeping is military. NP does not have mandates nor military peacekeepers. Both UN and NP agree that peacekeepers are non-partisan and must be invited. NP does a lot more to empower local people than does UN. More differences: UN can take over a government through protectorship and UN staff has immunity from local laws. NP people are not immune to these laws. But NP is really active at the ground level so that we know things UN staff might not be aware of. NP gives language training and relies on local, native staff for much information and help. NP field teams work long hours and share tea, etc. with

groups on both sides of conflict. Our image is better than that of UN because we have more compassion. UN does sub-contract with other NGO's - thus our contract with UNICEF to work with child soldiers and with UNHCR to help with displaced persons. In the Sudan, the UN provided helicopters to move some of the NP advance team to different areas. We are finding ways to work together for good of all.

## **Saturday, October 9**

### **Tribute to Elise Boulding - "Beacon for a Peaceful World" DVD:**

The Boston Chapter organized this tribute to Elise. Many friends remembered her with comments about her influence and support for helping community build a Culture' of Peace, Center for Nonviolent Solutions, Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Friends. Read David Hartsough's comments that Elise was instrumental in founding NP. A letter he sent her with his vision for Nonviolent Peaceforce she then sent to 200 of her friends worldwide. Elise led the Boston Chapter of NP for years. We then watched the DVD that Nancy Wrenn made in 2005 of her interview with Elise - a loving and inspiring tribute to an amazing lady of peace! Elise died during the past year.

### **Story of ex-Field Team Member - Ali Pahl in Sri Lanka:**

Ali is from Pakistan and was a Field Team member in Sri Lanka. He is now a graduate student at Tufts University Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. NP taught him a lot - how to cook, learn new languages, have respect for different religions and cultures, how to work as a team and use his skills and knowledge in a conflict situation. His Team consisted of 25 internationals from 5 continents. There were some conflicts but they had to work them out and make Team decisions. His Team was always getting requests from different people and groups for protective presence. Would assess request to see if valid and nonviolent and decide quickly if they could help. People felt safe with NP because they were nonpartisan and close to the community. Ali soon realized importance of the trainings they had before deployment - how to manage stress and fear and to be sure truly committed to NP mission.

His Team used mostly English but had Sri Lankan nationals to translate into Tamil and Sinhala. Nationals were later selected to be Field Team members - were recruited equally from Muslims, Tamils and Singhalas. They played very important roles in security assessments, verifying who individuals were, finding other partner groups who could support people possibly better than NP.

Women's role is vital in conflict situations. They have become the leaders as they have been trying to protect their children. They know what works and what doesn't in conflicts. NP gave them confidence to speak out and speak up. It was also interesting that often the lower classes of people also took on leadership roles. Churches have also played a role in providing safe housing (sometimes for months at a time) for victims

coming to appear in court. Buddhist monks were also helpful in getting people through checkpoints!

Ali was Coordinator of Human Rights Division and, in that role, found protection for several journalists when released from prison and needing safe housing and then relocation. A German journalist said "If NP had not been there, we would have been killed." NP has to research threats, determine source, find out why threatening a person. And NP has good relations with all parties - the good and the bad. In the field, NP team can dispel rumors by checking them out, arranging meetings with groups. When offering protection, always have fall-back plans in case first plan doesn't work. Also making other international contacts for local people so that they will have resources when NP leaves.

Ali said there were definitely problems working with the Sri Lanka government. Because Ali was training the army in law and human rights, the government revoked his visa. They are still not supportive of human rights. He suggested that we can support NP peacekeepers through our donations, education, trainings and by visiting sites to see how the Field Teams operate. And perhaps NP could open an academy to share experiences and train others.

### **Honoring Gene Sharp - Presentation of Award, Lunch in his honor and celebration of Gandhi's birthday and International Day of Violence (October 2):**

Sev Bruyn introduced Gene Sharp to the conference attendees and others who had gathered to honor him. When the Boston NP Chapter was formed, they studied Gene's book "Waging Nonviolent Struggle". Gene has written many other books that have gained local and worldwide recognition and have influenced many countries. (There was an impressive display of many of his books.) Gene then spoke about how most of our written history has failed to record the nonviolent and passive resistance this country has used, even during the American Revolution. Gandhi learned about nonviolence - he didn't "invent it"! We need to study why people go to war. People will give up their war culture only if there is another means of solving problems. Nonviolence is a simple principle but very complicated to implement and not always successful or effective. Gene feels there needs to be a plan for implementation.

Then the Boston Chapter presented Gene Sharp with the Nonviolence in Action Award in sincere appreciation for his work in nonviolence. (We then enjoyed a lovely lunch, including a birthday cake!)

### **Tim Wallis, NP Executive Director - Envisioning the Future of NP:**

Tim mentioned Gene Sharp's comment that people are using the term "nonviolence" for everything these days. But Gene has demystified the term - we don't have to be just like Gandhi or Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sometimes the name "Nonviolent Peaceforce" gives us some problems - a country's government might think NP is coming to lead protests and resistance or might want to overthrow the government. What NP is

providing is a way for local peace groups to feel safe doing their work. Our presence is a physically visible witness for peace by outsiders. We build relationships with all groups involved in the conflict, thus calming people and de-escalating tensions, always maintaining our non-partisanship. The end result would be robust civilian peacekeeping, with locals being able to carry this on after NP leaves an area. We need to document and publicize NP accomplishments, develop allies worldwide for our work and change the concept of "send in the troops" whenever a conflict arises. We have many invitations from countries asking for our help. Right now we have new teams in southern Sudan and a team that is exploring the border conflict in Georgia/Russia. Need to develop as an organization over next 30 years so that we can financially train and support NP peacekeepers on a large scale. Tim also envisions NP going into schools to recruit peacekeepers and even create a Peace Cadet Corps.

### **Outreach to Young People - Panel Discussion with Madelyn MacKay, Gordon Fellman, David Arond and Terri Shofner:**

Madelyn:

Long been wondering how to get young people to learn about nonviolence, NP and NCI skills. Found ways to "get a foot in the door" when her partner Jim was studying and teaching at UC Riverside last spring. Madelyn had already connected with Quaker group there and Fellowship of Reconciliation. She and Linda Dunn then spoke about NP in Jim's classes and Jim had students write essays on social justice. Essays were/ could be shared at a reception or some event. They invited the students to a FOR meeting and had them do a presentation about NP. Madelyn then made a proposal for interdisciplinary activity and offered "Talking to Gandhi". Got teachers to have classes attend. She also connected with a newspaper woman who helped her publicize things. She eventually got 3 different colleges (Riverside Community College, UC Riverside, and a private 7th Day Adventist College) involved in having NP presentations and/or NCI skills classes. The students really responded to the NCI skills training - most of them experienced violence daily in their lives!

Gordon:

He counsels students involved with political protest and forming groups at Brandeis University. Helps them work out differences when conflicts arise. Brandeis has a Peace Room on campus. Gordon offers retreats for students at the Peace Abbey in Sherburne and holds an annual peace conference. He would like to offer NCI skills trainings.

David:

Teachers at Tufts University Peace and Justice Institute. Offers a course on Inner Peace/Outer Action which uses a meditation techniques of Thich Nhat Hanh. Discovered one of his students was introducing the techniques into the "hood". Later sent 4 youth from the "hood" to a retreat led by Thich Nhat Hanh. Working on a spirituality curriculum - love, compassion, gratitude, mindfulness - to build resiliency and self-esteem in youth and to spread into their families.

Terri:

She offered to the Portland community Adventures in Nonviolence, monthly programs at a UU church. A Portland professor had her give an NP presentation and do an exercise with his students. Then encouraged his classes to come to her Adventures programs. Program has now ended. She and the professor started working in the homeless community to study endemic violence. Terri would like to use new computer technology (including 3-D) to develop on-line materials to teach children nonviolent activities and strategies.

### **Matt & Christie of Student Peace Alliance:**

The Student Peace Alliance began at Brandeis. Now is nation-wide with 120 chapters, including both high schools and colleges. Diverse representation of religions and cultures. They connect with other peace groups and work on legislation. Now trying to get funding for proven programs that help children avoid bad paths. Gordon Fellman's class "War and Possibilities of Peace" got them involved! Young people want access to organizations where they feel they can make a difference. Like working with consensus and clear plans to follow, positive messages, solution-oriented methods. They complain that older people try to control and talk too much! Youth wants ownership. Madelyn said "violence leads to fear, to silence, to a breakdown of society. Nonviolence leads to moral courage, speaking out and to more nonviolence." We need to demonstrate courtesy and respect as children grow.

### **Suggestions for USNPCA Task Force:**

1. Set a date for a conference call and invite participation by other chapter people as well as those here who indicated willingness to serve on Task Force. Focus on concerns, explore options and don't rush to change things.
2. Mission and Scope - explore whether USNPCA will concentrate on supporting NP, supporting Field Teams, conducting NCI workshops, developing local application of unarmed civilian peacekeeping. Dialogue with other chapters, promote nonviolence, affirm however each chapter wants to support NP.
3. What will future structure of USNPCA be? Will we have more of an identity such as other Member Organizations have? Do we want to continue with current horizontal, loose structure or do we want to have a hierarchy with officers, dues, staff, official non-profit status? Do we want to network/affiliate more with other MO's? Connect them to our website?
4. Keep on conducting NCI workshops but be clear as to purpose of trainings. Do we want just skills development or more focus on 3rd party intervention?
5. How best can we support NP financially? Should we be compiling and sending an annual report to NP re: our activities, fundraising?

6. Should we expand/develop our sub-committees? Coordinating, Communications and Training committees are active. Mentoring and Fundraising need members and activity.

7. Explore developing an Individual Membership category. How would it work?

Next year's conference will be in Minneapolis/St. Paul area.

**NCI Skills mini-workshop:**

We role-played 3rd party intervention in a conflict between sisters and the Common Ground exercise. Reflected on how we felt during the exercises and how skills can be applied in our lives.

**Sunday, October 10:**

After breakfast, we had a short Closing Circle and then departed. Several people visited the Peace Abbey, Cambridge Friends, UU Churches, Concord/Lexington or other sights of Boston area.