

4th Annual USNPCA Chapters Conference October 8-11, 2009

This year's Gathering is being co-hosted by the Peaceforce Oregon and the Western Washington Chapters. The Conference will be held at the Dumas Bay Centre, located in the City of Federal Way, Washington, located about 13 miles from the Seattle/Tacoma Airport and 25-30 miles South of Seattle. The facility is located on Puget Sound, and overlooks the Olympic Mountains.

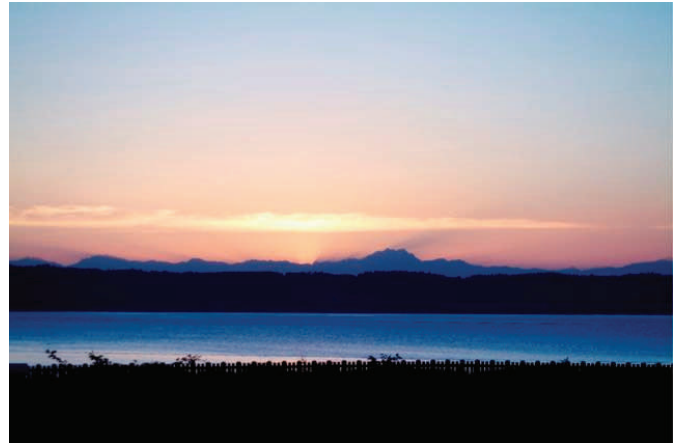
Both evenings with our keynote speakers will be open to the public. Donations from those nights will go to shortages on the cost of the conference.

Friday night, October 9th at 7pm, we welcome Rita Webb. Rita worked at a peacekeeper and Programme Officer for Nonviolent Peaceforce's pilot project in Sri Lanka. She will share with us firsthand what it is like to work with communities in conflict.

Saturday night, October 10th at 7pm, we welcome our visionary founders, David Hartsough and Mel Duncan. Hear the story of how two different life paths, dedicated to Human Rights, came to the same conclusion that Gandhi's Shanti Sena must become reality.

Following these events will be a social time to allow you to meet others involved both locally and from across the United States.

As soon as you book your flight please forward your itinerary to Bob Edgerton or Terri Shofner so that we



can make sure someone is at the airport to greet you and shuttle you to the conference center.

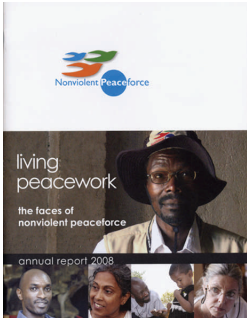
If you haven't registered yet, please visit the USNPCA website at usnpca.org and register.

A working agenda for the conference is shown on page 5. When finalized, it will be available on the USNPCA.org website.

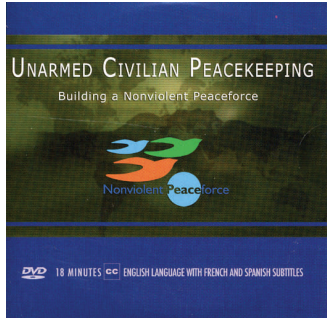
We look forward to seeing you there!

Bob Edgerton
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Terri Shofner
tshofner@gmail.com



The NP Annual Reports for each year from 2003-2008 are available online at nonviolentpeaceforce.org



The new NP video, "Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping" DVD is now available. For your copy, contact Terri Shofner at tshofner@gmail.com

Chapter News

Bay Area Chapter

Tom Kennedy, a long-time NP supporter, died in April. Tom and Judith Coates came up with the NP slogan, "What you can say YES to when you say no to war" NP was asked to table at his memorial celebration on May 1st because NP was so important to him. Marsha and NP staff members Joan Bernstein and Gilda Bettancourt set up a table with a big NP poster that Gilda put together and literature and t-shirts that NP Bay Area had from the past. Tom was known for his art cars, so his celebration included an art car parade and celebration with bands and testimonials and many beautiful art cars in a big warehouse in Oakland. Gilda was able to speak about her memories of Tom. We were happy to be a part of this loving celebration of Tom's life. A Tom Kennedy memorial fund was set up with NP.

Veronika Safarova has joined the Valerie Orth band which seems to be doing really well! She's too busy to take on chapter work right now. We'll be looking for new active members.

Marsha Carlton
mjcarlton@pcumail.com

Greater Boston Chapter

On May 3rd we celebrated Pete Seeger's 90th birthday with a concert and song circle at the Peace Abbey in Sherborn, MA, organized by Sherry Zitter. The fundraiser earned a couple of hundred dollars for the Peace Abbey and for NP.

Memorial Day found several of us at a waterfront memorial for veterans of the war in Iraq. We have been closely aligned with Iraq Veterans against the War because our friend and octogenarian host, Sev Bruyn, is a member and has engaged these men in understanding nonviolence.

At our June 25th meeting we had the pleasure of meeting two members of the Peaceforce who were participating in a week-long course at Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in Medford, MA: Oloo Otieno, a native of Kenya, who was with NP in Sri Lanka from 2003 -2005, then the Uganda project for 1 year, and is now serving with the NP field team in Mindanao, Philippines; and Ali Palh, a Pakistani-trained engineer and lawyer in Thailand who joined NPSL for 2 years to be in charge of the Human Rights Defenders Project.

Our founder and leader, Sherry Zitter, has taken a sabbatical leave to prepare for her wedding and will return to the work of the chapter in early November.

Our chapter continues to reach out to urban groups which may be able to learn about and use nonviolence. Minga Claggett-Borne and Sherry held a combination outreach meeting and workshop in March at a Boston housing project with Puerto Rican, African American and Asian participants. This tenants' organizing group wants them to come back and help them resolve some conflicts. Sev Bruyn met with an African American group to explore their possible interest in learning nonviolent skills.

Two NP workshops are scheduled for September 12th and 25th at the Cambridge Friends Meeting House, which will be led by Minga and two of her colleagues.

We will be hosting Joan Bernstein at our meeting on September 17th at the home of Helena Halperin. On October 1st several of our chapter members will attend a meeting of Pax Christi with Kathy Kelly discussing Creative Nonviolence.

Nancy Wrenn
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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

Our chapter was inactive over the summer, but we did get a request for the NCI Workshop in response to a talk given in early spring. This workshop was done July 25th, facilitated by myself, Terri Shofner, and Amary Taylor of Eugene, OR. The workshop was a great success.

Although the summer has been quiet, we're gearing up for a very busy and exciting fall. The new series of Adventures in Nonviolence will begin on September 3rd. This year our Adventures series is being hosted by the Peace Action Committee of First Unitarian Church in downtown Portland. The series will take place the first Thursday of every month from 6-8pm until May.

In addition to the Adventures, we're excited to be co-hosting this year's USNPCA Conference with the Western Washington Chapter. My hope is that at least one person from every chapter will be able to attend to help guide the future of our organization and also re-energize our efforts.

USNPCA Coordinating Committee

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

Also I will be giving a talk in Salem at The Unitarian Universalist Congregation Of Salem (UUCS) on September 6th. My topic will be Adventures in Nonviolence and the Quest for Peace. There are plans to videotape the talk so it may be posted later on the Peaceforce Oregon website. I'll let you all know how that goes at the conference.

Hope to see you all very soon!

Terri Shofner
tshofner@gmail.com

Philadelphia Area Chapter

We carried out the previously mentioned plans for spring activities: a display for the National Conference of Alternative Community Schools and tabling at peace events at Providence and Birmingham Friends Meetings. This summer we had a table at the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends.

We are grieving the loss of Laurence Sigmond, who had long been a steering member for our group.

Clarkson Palmer
ctpalmer@apl.com

San Diego Chapter

Our main event this summer was a reunion on June 6th for all people who had participated in our Nonviolent Conflict Intervention (NCI) workshops over the past two years. Attendance was small, but we enjoyed talking with those who came and sharing food and ideas. We also had many responses to a survey we sent with the invitation. Several respondents expressed interest in having 1-hour NCI skills practice sessions.

At our August chapter meeting, we approved paying the conference fees for Debby Park to attend the USNPCA Conference in Seattle Oct. 8-11, 2009. Debby is looking forward to meeting people from other chapters and sharing ideas of how to promote NP. We also enjoy the USNPCA Chapter Newsletter with all its news.

Chapter member Carroll Boone is offering a second class of Respect Based Communication starting Aug. 9. She has had good response with enough participants each time. Debby and Carroll will meet soon with the coordinator of San Diego's Peace Resource Center to see how we can be mutually supportive and perhaps work on creating local Peace Teams.

On September 22, we will table at the University of San Diego's annual International Day of Peace. After that we will concentrate on finding sponsors/locations for more NCI workshops, set up NCI practice sessions and try to think of a good fund-raising event for NP.

Also, Gloria Joyce and Ed Flowers will be working with a new server for our website to make the site more versatile and user-friendly.

Debby Park
rayandeb@gmail.com

Tucson Chapter

We are currently exploring the logistics for hosting a One-day NCI Workshop sometime in late November. There is a growing interest in holding a Facilitator Training at a later date, and possibly the desire to develop a Peace Team.

We continue to brainstorm groups and organizations for opportunities to show the new DVD and discuss the important work of NP.

Paul Christian
pchl@cox.net

Communication Committee Report

There have been a number of changes to the content of our website. A major spring cleaning removed outdated information, including old fundraising campaigns, and older versions of presentation materials.

There has been increased concentration on current events and activities. The NCI Workshop link, in particular, continues to grow with new Workshop descriptions, and an updated workshop brochure.

We continue to publish this quarterly newspaper, and have plans to include an overview of the upcoming Annual Conference in our Fall issue.

I hope that you visit our website frequently, as new material is typically added every week.

As always, we welcome feedback on the content, and suggestions for additions.

Paul Christian
pchl@cox.net

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 Committee.

Working Agenda for USNPCA Annual Conference

Thursday October 8th

Airport pickups

Arrival and Registration

5:00pm Welcome and buffet supper

7:00pm Informal gathering for introductions and general discussion of conference goals. Facilitated by Dorothy Werner of Coordinating Committee.

Friday October 9th

6:30 - 7:30am Physical movement, group walk, yoga.

9:00 - 10:30am Organizational updates. Welcome all represented chapters to describe where their chapter is in development, goals and missions.

Discussion of New Chapter guidelines released by the Coordinating Committee.

General Discussion of current issues and concerns. Review of USNPCA mission, goals and objectives. Show the new DVD. Facilitated by Judy King of the Coordinating Committee.

10:45-11:45 NP Organization Scheme, review of IGC Meeting. Led by Joan Bernstein and Faith Edmond.

1:00 - 2:30 Team Building Exercise. Facilitated by Carol Miller.

3:00 - 5:00 Harness FREE web technologies such as Twitter, Facebook, and more, to market, build and organize you chapter and advertise your events. Led by Terri Shofner .

6:00 **Dinner**

7:00 Our speaker Rita Webb, Programme Officer for Nonviolent Peaceforce's pilot project in Sri Lanka.

Saturday October 10th

6:30-7:30 Physical movement, group walk, yoga.

9:00 - 9:45 NCI Workshops
Facilitators and Organizers brainstorm best approaches. Facilitated by Joan Bernstein, NP Regional Coordinator for North America.

10:00 - 11:30 Community Outreach
Brainstorming session to build new strategies for engaging our communities.

1:00 - 1:30 Activity to energize - some song or lively chants - Led by Dorothy Werner

1:30 - 2:30 Mentoring Committee Report by Nancy Wrenn and Terri Shofner.

Successes, new and potential Chapters. New materials and open discussion of chapter needs.

3:00 - 3:30 FUNdraising Committee Report

3:30 - 4:00 Communications Committee Report
Open discussion of website, newsletter, and an opportunity to discuss chapter needs.

4:15 - 5:00 Nominations and election of Coordinating Committee Members. Two new people to be added.

Trainers are meeting at this time to discuss facilitation strategies, new changes to curriculum, etc.

6:00 **Dinner**

7:00 We welcome our visionary founders, David Hartsough and Mel Duncan. Hear the story of NP. This is open to the public. Followed by opportunities for social interaction and revelry.

Sunday October 11th

6:30 - 7:30 Physical movement, group walk, yoga.

9:30 - 10:30 Putting it all together. Facilitated by Terri Shofner.

10:45 Wrap up and closing ritual led by Dorothy Werner

Brunch

Conference Adjourns