

Handful of Salt

Volume XXXV, Number 1

January-February 2011



*Director's
Report from
Liz Moore*

**Happy
New
Year!**

PJALS has been fantastic for a long time (35 years to be exact), and I think we're looking very good at the beginning of 2011. We have amassed a satisfying list of accomplishments for 2011, ranging from working as a police accountability coalition partner to help win an important step forward in accountability and transparency for Spokane's police department, to mobilizing with community partners against Cal Brown's execution and then against the Westboro Baptist Church's vitriolic visit, to investing in a new database that lets us put to rest our 18-year-old system and move into 2011 with a cutting-edge system. In the new year you'll also see our re-designed website! Check out our accomplishments listed on pages 8-9, and pat yourself on the back! It's because of your support that we've been able to do this work together.

Where to from here? Thanks to the nearly 100

members who took the time for our strategic directions survey, we got the message loud and clear that your top priorities are economic justice (75%) and countering war and militarism (71%). You also said you value standing against racism and homophobia (64%) and working for police accountability (52%).

More than anything else, I learned from reading your comments that you deeply feel and clearly see the connections between militarism and economic injustice: *"War is a suction which not only perpetuates violence, but takes funding away from economic justice issues."* *"War threatens to destroy the America we know. It broke the economy and kills our young and too many civilians."* *"War is the biggest barrier to balancing our budget."* *"If we were not wasting our energy, money and people in various wars, there would be more of all for improving education, health, and jobs for people who now see no other alternatives in their lives than to become soldiers."* *"Economic justice is fundamental to any justice. As long as we spend most of our national economic & productive efforts on military, we cannot achieve economic justice. Prejudice always gets more ugly and vehement when people are fighting over ever smaller pieces of pie."*

I learned you are thinking strategically, and you want to see local involvement and local

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Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane
Affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation
35 W. Main, Ste 120M, Spokane, WA 99201, 509-838-7870

The Handful of Salt

is published six times a year by the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane. Its name comes from Mohandas Gandhi's salt tax protest in India, a successful, nonviolent, grassroots action that created significant social change against overwhelming resource advantages.

Steering Committee

David Brookbank, Linda Greene, Mark Hamlin, Rebecca Lamb, Roseanne Lasater, Mike Nuess, Avery Rendon, Erica Scott, Ken Isserlis (Steering Committee Advisor)

Staff

Liz Moore, Director; Dale Raugust, Shar Lichty, AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteers; Bethany Abbott, Justin Mauger and John Dickey, EWU Interns; Stephanie Nieves, Gonzaga Intern

Volunteers

Claudia Craven, Marianne Torres, Michael Poulin, Myrta Ladich, Vickie Scott-Woodley, Sheila Fox, Greg Lahti, Christy Anderson-Crosen, Nancy and Jeremy Street, Chuck Fiske, Carol Ellis, Pamela Frost, Rusty and Nancy Nelson

Contact PJALS: 509-838-7870, www.pjals.net, pjals@pjals.net

Volunteers Make It Happen

Contact Dale at 838-7870 to share your time and talents.

**Volunteer Opportunities,
Contact Dale at 838-7870
or draugust@pjals.net**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Collect signatures at the March or help with
our Community Resource Table

**PEACE and ECONOMIC JUSTICE
Action Conference, March 18-19**
Many volunteer opportunities available

Spring Auction—Date to be set in May
Many opportunities to volunteer

Become a Handful Contributor.
We welcome your articles, subject to
editing for space and appropriateness of
content.
Contact pjals@pjals.net

Wish List

- **Canopy** (sponsor \$215) Ours broke from lots of use!
- **Coffee Maker \$40**
- **Computer, laptop or desktop**
- **Printing our next issue of Handful** (sponsor \$425)
- **Mailing our next issue of Handful** (sponsor \$100)
- **Mailing:** stamps, printing and materials for membership renewals (sponsor \$200)
- **PJALS expenses for one month** (sponsor \$8000)
- **10 hrs. of IT support** for data base transition (sponsor \$105/hr)
- **Case of recycled copy paper** for January-February (sponsor at \$46)
- **Easel for Flipcharts** (\$70)
- **Flipcharts** for Conference Workshops (\$18)



Rusty Nelson on Peace and War

Four American heroes were lined up in their wheelchairs for CBS News. As noted by the interviewer, there was not a good leg between them, and they all agreed their sacrifices in Afghanistan had been worthwhile. Indeed, a couple of the men said they would go back, if they could. Overlooking any consideration of the sacrifices of Afghans, how should we account for this resolve? Several quick responses might be: loyalty, optimism, brainwashing, failure to comprehend the reality of the situation, and underexposure to alternatives to force. And here's the answer I could not give without having been in harm's way for the corporations that decide whether or not war is good or bad or neutral, morally and fiscally and politically: Stupidity.

These mangled men are not stupid, but they accepted stupid orders, based upon stupid foreign policy and stupid concepts about duty, honor and patriotism. (Speaking of duty, are you as insulted as I about the marketing of the killing game, *Call to Duty/Black Ops*? **Doonesbury** seems to be the only medium challenging this current leader in the race to the bottom of human dignity.)

How, I hope you're asking, has the leading nation on the earth come to hold so tenaciously to ideas, schemes, fears, and threats which can best be described as Stupid? Charging the heavy brigade into Afghanistan and Iraq are just symptoms. I almost said recent symptoms, but

I'm reminded that this little adventure in Afghanistan has become the longest war in U.S. history, in spite of the fact that we have not had a declaration of war in 69 years. Looking at the connections between military and domestic spending, federal debt and local and state fiscal emergencies, the same pattern of stupidity is unmistakable. Consider the cartoonish budget proposal of Gov. Gregoire, or the catastrophic compromise between Obama and congressional Republicans. They may not be stupid with respect to what there is to work with and what must be done, but it was stupidity that brought us to this dance.

The blame game is generally to be avoided, but I want to begin 2011 by pinning the tale upon the esteemed **two-party system**, which defies logic and deflects wisdom with a staggering consistency. It's more satisfying to blame Republicans, but Democrats insist upon upping the ante on matters of war and free trade, the biggest engines behind our economic slump and the sacred cows that will prevent a sensible and egalitarian recovery. More parties might be better than no parties, but it takes big money to empower a political party, the same money that will prevent the rise of strong alternative parties. Even the wealth of the Tea Party movement has not been enough to disentangle it from the GOP.

One party or another has been poised to save our republic all my life. Instead, the country stumbles on in spite of partisan conspiracies and sweetheart deals, but not without some of us being thrown overboard to maintain or leverage a ballast of power.

Our elected leaders will continue to present us with more stupidity than wisdom until the demise of the two party system. From my perspective, that demise cannot come too soon, although I

Director's Report, Continued from page 1

impact in our work together: *“All three issues (I ranked highest) are of local importance and have immediate and ongoing impact on local communities.” “Your local/regional emphasis creates opportunities to reach out to new members and allied organizations to collaborate with PJALS to make our region more humane.” “I think about national and international efforts but I think we need groups to focus on local issues.” “Local matters; it’s easier to engage people and see results when dealing primarily with issues that can be addressed on a local level.” “Positive results in these areas will benefit a greater percentage of the population.”*

And I learned that you want to spread the word and invite your friends to PJALS events. With our new database, we are keeping track of you who marked an interest in that kind of friend-to-friend outreach, and we’ll be asking you to do just that! Our top outreach priorities for the next three years are youth, students, and faith-based activists, and we know the best place to start is with connections we already have.

Based on these results, your comments, and Steering Committee discussions, the Steering Committee has approved a Strategic Plan for 2011-2013. Thank you so much for your thoughts, guidance, and consideration!

Legislative Agenda for 2011

The PJALS Economic Justice Committee recommended and the Steering Committee approved the following four legislative priorities:

Revenue through closing tax loopholes vs. straight cuts: With the results of the election, legislators are not going to consider new taxes

for individuals this year. So, many organizations are pushing to close corporate tax loopholes as a revenue option. According to the Washington Budget and Policy Center, these tax loopholes cost the state \$6.5 billion each year, more than the projected budget shortfall of \$4.5 billion. We are joining the efforts of FUSE and other organizations that are taking this approach to creating revenue in lieu of straight budget cuts. Some examples of these tax loopholes are: the first mortgage deduction for banks, \$100 million/year; sales tax exemption on elective cosmetic surgery, \$8 million/year; and preferential tax treatment of private jets, \$5 million/year.

Abolishing the Death Penalty. This issue is one of the active campaigns of the ACLU-WA as well as the Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. We will be working on mobilizing our members to contact legislators to move bills out of committee this year.

Foreclosure Prevention Bill. Statewide Poverty Action Network and Washington Community Action Network have this on their agenda this year and we have chosen to support their efforts to protect Washington families from big bank foreclosures.

Move to Amend. This is a national movement which Washington Public Campaigns has taken on in a statewide capacity. The goal is to have state legislators pass a joint resolution asking Congress to amend the 1st Amendment to remove the interpretation of corporate personhood. This would be one step toward clean campaigns by eliminating the ability of corporations to finance elections without any limitations.

If you would like to work on any of these during the next legislative session, please contact Shar Lichty at 838-7870 or slichty@pjals.net.

Rusty on War and Peace

Continued from page 3

Hope for partisan supremacy enables us to lurch into a new year, a new decade, without having learned from our most horrible mistakes. Federal tax cuts for the rich and clinging to the nation's most regressive tax system in Washington are bad enough, but to go on and on with un-winnable wars tells me that the baby has been thrown out so we may keep the bathwater. The leadership of each party insists, not that it can lead us to peace, but that it can create and engage enemies in the way that will best serve the rich and powerful.

It's the time of year to reflect upon Martin Luther King, Jr., and I've been complaining for years that Americans refuse to honor him for the things that made him great or to remember his wisest admonitions. As Republicans and Democrats scramble to claim Dr. King's legacy, I'll be reminded of the (civil rights hero) Vincent Harding interview in the fall issue of Fellowship (you should read FOR's magazine). Harding's response to hearing about African Americans struggling for institutional acceptance during the civil rights movement was, "...we don't want to be included in the mainstream. We want to create a new river." I'll continue to vote, and mostly for Democrats, I'm sure, when confined to the mainstream, but when we who yearn for progress create a new river, those old, rich, tired, unimaginative parties will be left in the ditch.

"There can be no peace without justice."
—Tutu, 1984

"Peace can only last when human rights are respected." —the Dalai Lama

WHY BOYCOTT, DIVESTMENT, SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL

by Myrta Ladich

Boycott, divestment and sanctions against Israel would "begin to soothe the pain, attend the sorrows of a people wrongly treated for generations. This action would also remind Israel that we have seen it lose its way." Alice Walker

The movement for boycott, divestment and sanction (BDS) against Israeli policies was launched in 2005, a year after the International Court of Justice (the World Court) found that the portions of Israel's apartheid wall built on occupied Palestinian territory were illegal, and that they must be dismantled and Palestinians affected by the wall compensated. After a year had passed and there was no sign that the ruling would be followed by the Israel government, a coalition of more than 170 Palestinian organizations issued a call for boycott divestment and sanction of Israel "until it complies with international law and universal principles of human rights."

Israel's successive governments have refused to heed United Nations resolutions, criticism by human rights activists, and decisions of the World Court. An economic boycott is a legitimate moral and nonviolent form of political action.

Today, a Palestinian-led body called the Boycott, Divestment and Sanction Campaign National Committee (BNC) loosely coordinates the BDS movement. The BNC is not affiliated with any political party and does not take positions on issues that fall outside the specific principles of the "call." Thus, it does not take a

Continued on page 10 as "BDS Movement"

PJALS Opportunity Calendar, January-February 2011

NOTE: Unless otherwise shown, all events are at PJALS, 35 W Main, Mezzanine

Calendar of Events and Meetings

- Jan 6, 5:30, **PeaceWorks** Committee meeting
 Jan 11, 5:30, **Palestine-Israel Human Rights Committee** meeting
 Jan 12, 5, **PJALS Potluck**, Com Bldg Lobby
 Jan 12, 6:45, **Veterans for Peace**
 Jan 20, 5:30, **PeaceWorks** Committee meeting
 Jan 22, **E. WA Legislative Conf** (*see below*)
 Jan 25, 5:30, **Palestine-Israel Human Rights Committee** meeting
 Jan 29, 9:30-2:00, **Exploring Nonviolence** series begins. Register by January 24.

Beyond the Climate of Fear

Empowering the Community of Faith to Act:
Eastern Washington Legislative Conference
Saturday, January 22, 9:30 to 3 p.m.
Episcopal Cathedral of St. John
 For information, call 535-4112.

- Feb 3, 5:30, **PeaceWorks** Committee meeting
 Feb 8, 5:30, **Palestine-Israel Human Rights Committee** meeting
 Feb 9, 6:45, **Veterans for Peace**
 Feb 11, PJALS hosts Mid-East Children's Alliance speaker, Ziad Abbas, speaking on the **Gaia Project: Water for the Children of Gaza** (*see insert*)
 Feb 17, 5:30, **PeaceWorks** Committee meeting
 Feb 22, 5:30 **Palestine-Israel Human Rights Committee** meeting

PJALS Potluck Dinner

Come eat, chat, and discuss organizing for peace, justice, and human rights. Launch the New Year with us on Wednesday, January 12th, 5:00 in the Community Building Lobby, 35 West Main.

Exploring Nonviolence Workshop Series

Come explore structural and institutional violence, nonviolent social justice movements, the role of obedience and conformity, and the power to create change. *No prior experience necessary.*

Jan 29, Feb 5, Feb 12, 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Facilitated by Rusty and Nancy Nelson
 Register by January 24 by contacting Dale Raugust at draugust@pjals.net or call 838-7870.
Free to PJALS members, \$25 for public, \$15 students

Peace and Economic Justice Action Conference

March 18, evening, and all day March 19
 Theme: Bring Our Billions Home: The Costs of War and Our Communities' Needs
 Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane
 4340 W Ft. George Wright Drive
 Register at 838-7870 or draugust@pjals.net

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Unity March and Community Resource Fair

Monday Jan 17
 10 a.m. INB Performing Arts Center
 334 West Spokane Falls Boulevard
 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Community Resource Fair
 Riverpark Square, 1st and 2nd levels

**THINK GLOBALLY...ACT LOCALLY...THINK LOCALLY...ACT GLOBALLY...
 THINK...ACT...THINK...ACT...THINK...ACT...THINK...ACT...THINK...ACT...**



A DAY OF SERVICE

Shar Lichty

I first became actively involved with issues of peace and human rights while a student at SCC. I began to discover ways I could channel my passion for these issues to effect some positive change. Most of my work within these positions involved organizing speaking engagements, forums, and artistic presentations on specific topics related to peace and human rights; however, two annual events that the Student Awareness League organizes to serve the underprivileged were the most rewarding. One of these is the annual Thanksgiving meal prepared and served at the House of Charity on the Tuesday preceding Thanksgiving. Despite having graduated from SCC, I continue to make this a day of service each year.

The frigid cold and icy roads were reminiscent of years past along with the early morning kitchen filled with volunteers, yet this year was different. There were nearly 80 volunteers throughout the day, slightly more than previous years; the number of homeless and hungry that waited in line for hours to be served a hot meal was significantly larger. In total, 415 meals were served that day to homeless individuals eliminating their hunger for a short time.

I left at the end of the day pondering two things. First, how many homeless individuals weren't served a large, hot meal that day? Second, how will they be fed tomorrow? I feel honored to have been a small part of this day of service which not only filled bellies but put smiles on faces. Reconnecting with the student

club that led me on the path to PJALS and meeting so many new people who were also moved to show up that frigid, icy morning to be of service was a bonus.

Over the years I have watched the number of homeless served on this day increase, most considerably this year. Living downtown, I have also watched these numbers increase in my neighborhood. As I read headlines with both parties blaming the other for the economy, deals being made to protect tax cuts for the wealthy, and an all cuts budgets coming down the pipe, I only see these numbers continuing to increase. I have been homeless, living in a tent with four small children while working a full time job. I understand how many families are just one paycheck, one unemployment check, or one budget cut away from being there as well. For these reasons, I passionately continue to work on issues of economic justice, peace and human rights and am grateful for the opportunity to spend a day being of service.

PJALS HISTORY PROJECT

The Green Progressive Archive of Spokane is gathering together the history of Spokane social movements, including PJALS. Once gathered, the collection will be permanently stored at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture. Several PJALS members are on the Board of Trustees for the Green Progressive Archive. For more information and to donate documents and materials from PJALS' history contact Dale at PJALS, or Robert Zeller at rzeller@cet.com or 624-4712. In future issues of the Handful of Salt the narrative history started in last month's issue, written by Dale, will be continued and concluded.

PJALS 2010 Accomplishments

Because of members like you, in 2010, PJALS was able to accomplish the following:

Organizing for human rights:

** Because we believe in police accountability, PJALS members like you helped to build and participate in a community coalition of over a dozen organizations. The efforts of this coalition resulted in June in the City Council unanimously voting to adopt an ordinance mandating independent investigations of and public reporting on complaints of police abuse.*

** Because we believe the death penalty is an unjust, unfair, and irrational punishment, PJALS members like you attended a service and candlelight vigils in Spokane and Walla Walla to stand in opposition of the State's execution of Cal Brown in our names on September 10, 2010.*

** Because we believe in equality for our GLBT community, PJALS members like you provided peacekeeping at the Pride Parade.*

** Because we believe in freedom of and from religion, PJALS members like you responded to the threat of Qur'an burnings on September 11th by organizing and reading from various religious and secular writings including the First Amendment at the Main Street Fair.*

** Because we believe in a community of peace and inclusion, PJALS members like you joined thousands of community members in response to Westboro Baptist Church's visit to Spokane and N. Idaho in a strong, loving show of support for youth in our community who were targeted by their hate-filled messages.*

Weaving a web for economic justice:

** Because we value quality education, health care, safe schools, and services for our children, PJALS members like you helped us distribute thousands of voter guides listing the positions taken by our Steering Committee on the initiatives., and supported the "Yes on 1098"*

campaign through distribution of literature, voter education, and phone banking for voter turnout.

** Because we believe in inclusive democracy and economic justice, PJALS members like you helped us pilot our county by county organizing program by organizing, hosting, and participating in 9 ballot issue information sessions in 7 counties this fall.*

** Because we believe in workers' rights to organize unions and negotiate contracts, PJALS members like you helped support the members of SEIU 1199NW in their successful contract campaign in spring and summer 2010.*

Showing PeaceWorks:

** Because we believe that the cost of war is unacceptable, PJALS members like you joined other community organizations and members in a march through downtown Spokane and rally at the Federal Building calling to move from the funding of wars to funding for education, healthcare, and jobs in our communities.*

** Because we are opposed to all US military spending, all acts of violence and all forms of prejudice and discrimination, PJALS members like you have helped host speakers and an art exhibit on human rights in Palestine and Israel.*

** Because we believe in active nonviolence, PJALS members like you helped us offer a workshop series on Exploring Nonviolence to examine and analyze personal and interpersonal violence and increase the practice of active nonviolence.*

** To strengthen our work for peace, human rights and economic justice, PJALS members like you made a success of our Peace & Economic Justice Action Conference. We offered 18 skill-building workshops and had a great keynote by Marcy Westerling from Oregon's Rural Organizing Project.*

PJALS 2010 Financial Report

Though we seek and receive grants from foundations, it's the financial support of members like you that makes our work possible. ***Almost 50% of our revenue comes from generous individual donations from wonderful members like you. Thank you for your support!***

Our 2010 Budget:

Program	\$10,100
Fundraising	\$1,500
Office Expenses/Data base	\$17,720
Staff Salary and Benefits (Director Liz Moore and Project Coordinator Rusty Nelson)	\$50,640
Reserve Fund	\$15,000
Total	\$94,960

Each month in 2010 we very efficiently spent under \$8,000 on mailings, our database transition, our bi-monthly newsletter, events and actions, fliers and materials, online organizing, outreach, rent and other office costs, staff salary & benefits, and other program-related costs.

Foundation support for our work in 2010:

Please note some of the grants listed here are for multi-year support.

Resist , general support 2009-2010:	\$2,000
Marguerite Casey Foundation , general support, 2009-2011:	\$40,000
Marguerite Casey Foundation , economic justice, 2009-2010:	\$30,000
Community Building Foundation , general support, 2009-2010:	\$10,000
Community Building Foundation , communications & development:	\$10,000

Our Financial Achievements in 2010:

1. We invested in a new cutting-edge database so we can easily track membership and volunteer information.
2. We are investing in a re-design of our website to make it contemporary, easier to update and more user-friendly.
3. We strengthened our financial health by beginning to build a reserve fund for operating expenses.

Our Financial Goals for 2011:

1. Add a permanent Development Associate and Volunteer Coordinator position by September 2011.
2. Continue to strengthen our financial health by building toward a reserve fund of 6 months of operating expenses.

Wishing you and your family love and warm feeling of community and togetherness during this holiday session and always.



A special "Thank You" to Vickie Scott-Woodley who submitted an article for this issue of the Handful of Salt

which we did not have room to publish.

“BDS Movement,” continued from page 5

stand on issues such as the one-state or two-state solution to the conflict. It opposes all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism, and is committed to nonviolence.

The specific demands of the “call” are three:

1. that Israel respect, protect and promote the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated by UN Resolution 194 of 1948.
2. that Israel end the occupation of all Palestinian lands and the siege of Gaza, and dismantle the wall.
3. that Israel respect and promote equal rights for non-Jewish citizens of Israel.

BDS is not a principle, a dogma, or an ideology, but a strategy. It is not opposed to Israel, but against Israeli policies. When the policies change, BDS will end.

BDS employs three strategies:

1. Boycotts can take several forms. They may be of products made in Israel or by Israeli companies located in Israeli occupied territories, products or services of any company that profits from Israel’s military occupation, or performances and academic events of Israeli artists and academics who support Israeli policies of occupation and discrimination.
2. Divestment is an activity utilized by institutions. It is the opposite of investment and calls for selling off or disposing of existing investments in Israeli-owned companies or those that profit from the occupation.
3. Sanctions are used by governments as a punitive measure against another nation which is violating international law, in this case Israel.

The movement has won adherents by saying that it will accept any gesture of boycott or divestment that is made. “If you only want to

boycott an egg, we want you to boycott an egg,” said Omar Barghouti, a BDS leader.

Since the war of aggression on Gaza and the flotilla attack, the BDS movement has experienced unprecedented growth. People of conscience seem to have crossed a threshold and are less willing to tolerate Israel’s status as a state above the law. If governments and politicians will not curb Israel’s unlawful actions, perhaps ordinary people through boycott and divestment can.

In addition to corporations and trade unions around the world which have joined the campaign, churches and college campuses are actively debating support for Israel. Since 2005 the Presbyterian Church (USA) has undertaken a “phased selective divestment” from five companies benefiting from the occupation. Last June the No. Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church voted to divest from Caterpillar, General Electric and Terex—all who profit from the occupation. In July 2010 the British Methodist Church voted to boycott products from settlements in occupied Palestine. The World Council of Churches supports boycott of settlement products.

A year ago Hampshire College hosted a divestment organizing conference of student leaders from more than forty campuses. In June the student body of Evergreen College moved the college to divest from companies profiting from the occupation and to ban the use of Caterpillar equipment on campus.

BDS worked in South Africa; it can work in Palestine and Israel.

(Editor’s note: Please visit www.pjals.net for the complete version of this article.) To get involved, join PJALS’ Palestine-Israel Human Rights Committee.

Bring Our Billion\$ Home:
New campaign launching in January
 by Liz Moore

"Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired, signifies in the final sense a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed." --Dwight D. Eisenhower

While people are losing their jobs and homes, state and local governments are cutting needed services. In Washington State over 40,000 people have lost Basic Health coverage, funds to reduce class size in our schools have been cut 70%, college tuition has risen, library hours are being cut, and the Governor has put forward an all-cuts budget again. Meanwhile, taxpaying families in Eastern Washington alone have spent \$2.1 billion for the wars since 2001.

In January 2011 we will launch a new campaign to **Bring Our Billion\$ Home**. The campaign is aimed at moving local elected bodies like the city council to urge our Congressional delegation to stop funding the wars, occupations and military activities in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere, and to shift priorities to put money now wasted on the bloated Pentagon budget into putting people back to work and funding education, healthcare, and community services. PeaceWorks volunteers are excited to reach out across our community to garner individual and organizational endorsements. Our goal is to garner 500 signatures and 10 organizational endorsements by June 30, as a first phase of the campaign. We'll start by launching signature gathering on January 17 at the Martin Luther King march and celebration. Our March conference will focus on connecting the dots between militarism and social and economic exploitation, oppression, and poverty. At the conference we'll launch our regional coalition.

After the conference, we will hold a "Bring the Billions\$ Home Community Speak Out" where survivors of this crisis and affected agencies can tell their stories.

Here are five ways you can get involved:

1. **Send back** the insert in this issue to add your name to the Declaration of Principles.
2. **Invite** a "Bring Our Billion\$ Home" speaker to your faith community's social concerns committee, professional association, union, or other community group so that we can ask your group to endorse the Declaration.
3. **Come learn more** and chat it up at our New Year Potluck on January 12 at 5:00.
4. **Join in** our PeaceWorks meetings on Thursdays January 6 and 20 at 5:30.
5. **Help launch** our signature gathering at the Martin Luther King march and celebration on January 17: call Dale at 838-7870 to sign up.

October 2010 marked 9 years of US war in Afghanistan, and March 2011 will complete 8 years of US warfare and occupation in Iraq. That means almost 5900 US troop deaths and as many suicides, over a million civilian deaths (and that's just the released numbers), and 30% of US soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan suffering from identified mental illness. What could we provide with our \$2.1 billion instead of war?

- Healthcare for 932,568 children for a year, or
- Pell Grants for 380,924 college students at \$5550, or
- Head Start for 229,772 children for a year, or
- School teachers in 31,407 classrooms for a year, or
- VA medical care for 269,306 military veterans for a year, or
- Jobs for 52,500 people at \$40,000 for a year.

We are excited about this new campaign and hope you will join in making it successful.

Peace & Justice Action League of Spokane
35 W Main, Suite 120M
Spokane, WA 99201
(509) 838-7870



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*Join us for our first 2011
PJALS Potluck Dinner
for socializing, button-making, discussions and more.*

Wednesday January 12, 2011, 5:00 pm
Community Building Lobby, 35 W. Main

Please support PJALS!

The Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane depends upon gifts and dues from members to continue to work for peace and justice, locally and globally. We welcome anyone who favors free exchange of ideas and nonviolent action to war or to inaction and ignorance. PJALS, 35 W Main, Suite 120M, Spokane, WA 99201.

You determine your own level of support and participation. Members also determine issues and projects that get the most attention and effort. PJALS is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation.

Call 838-7870 to discuss the by-the-month options, or visit www.pjals.net and click "Support PJALS" in upper right corner.

Other membership options:

Name(s) _____

Essential/Vintage members \$60/year

Address _____

Retro members \$40/year

Precious Scholars \$20/year

Phone/email _____















