

Handful of Salt

Volume XXXV, Number 3

May-June, 2011



Director's Report from Liz Moore

THE JOY of "NO"

Lately I've noticed a pattern: I have repeatedly been told my words should be more positive and that campaigns I'm involved in should shout louder what they are for and shout less about what they are against.

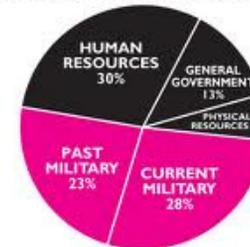
Yes, we should say what we're for: we're for peace, we're for economic justice, we're for human rights. We need to articulate a vision of resource-sharing to meet everyone's basic needs, information-sharing and relationship-building so that fear can't be used to manipulate and divide us, and power-sharing so that those who are impacted by decisions can exercise their right to democratic, collective self-determination.

And we also have to name what we are opposing: we are opposing war, economic exploitation, racism, homophobia, and sexism. We are opposing military spending that now sucks more than half of our entire federal budget, de-funding education, healthcare, and basic lifeline programs for struggling families at the federal and state levels. We are

opposing US occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan, where we are in our eighth and tenth years, respectively. Our occupation of Afghanistan has displaced 234 million people and caused thousands of civilian deaths, and it's the longest war in US history. Of course we should say no, loudly and repeatedly!

We seem to have strong cultural, gendered norms that saying no is bad. When a woman articulates a strong distinction about what is acceptable and what is not, she may not seem appropriately ladylike. When a woman lists what is not acceptable and puts forward a positive alternative vision, the "no" part may stand out more strongly because it's not been historically acceptable for women to assert a "no" message. In some cases I've gotten the message that saying no is being negative and being negative is bad for our
Continued on Page 6

WHERE YOUR INCOME TAX MONEY REALLY GOES



51% TO WAR

Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane

Affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation

35 W. Main, Ste 120M, Spokane, WA 99201 • 509-838-7870 • www.pjals.org

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.

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

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.org**

Volunteers are needed for Bloomsday on May 1st, to leaflet the crowd and hold the PJALS banner in a prominent location.

Volunteers are needed for the PJALS' Spring Auction on May 14th from about 3 pm to 8:30 pm, for set-up and break-down, for kitchen duties and to help with the logistics of the event.

Volunteers are also needed at other events in the Spokane area to collect signatures for our "Bring our Billion\$ Home campaign.

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

Wish List

External Hard Drive for computers for back-up and storage. About \$100.

Canopy, 10' X 10', About \$250.

Printing our next issue of the Handful, now expanded to 16 pages, \$600; Mailing our next issue, About \$100.

PJALS' expenses for one month, \$6,000

Case of copy paper, About \$48.

Office chairs and desktop computers less than two years old.

"Bring our Billion\$ Home Banner" \$150.



Rusty Nelson on Peace and War

Does GDAMS ring a bell? The Global Day of Action on Military Spending was April 12. I

began that day at my sister's home in Georgia. My brother drove Nancy and me to the airport where we took a large, delayed airliner to Salt Lake City. After dinner with our son and his family, we boarded a small airliner for Spokane. It was a good family day, but we were reluctantly ending a good trip, coming home to reality, and out of touch with many things that matter, military spending, for example. Couldn't we have, at least, worn t-shirts proclaiming to airport crowds and fellow passengers that we know about and deplore the evils of military spending?

The moment has escaped us until next year. By then, we probably will have enough distractions, trauma and emergencies to insure that it escapes us again. In the meantime, PJALS was not ignoring the issue. The website referenced war taxes and gave two other websites with pertinent and significant information on military spending: rethinkafghanistan.com/iou and costofwar.com.

The day after GDAMS, I attended our chapter meeting for Vets for Peace. One of our members, to make us more intentional and action-oriented, asked us to consider and prioritize our issues. We decided to poll the membership for a list, and preliminary suggestions include the nightmare of military spending. I think that issue will make the cut. Veterans for Peace has always tried to educate its members and the public about the way our country wastes lives and resources by

depending upon war, even when good alternatives are well-presented. I was reminded of that when VFP led me to Demilitarize.org/event-reports/, which records some of the GDAMS activities across the globe.

Trenchant writing about military spending often grabs our attention by reminding us of how much the US spends for defense (war) compared to other large, militaristic countries, or the good that could be done with tiny fractions of our military budget. I'm moved by these pieces, but statistics fit briefly and uncomfortably in my brain. If you need convincing that our country's economic problems are directly connected to resources wasted on war and preparation for war, please go to the aforementioned sites, Network for New Priorities or Center for Defense Information. It's enough for me to see what our representatives at every level of government are trying to add to and subtract from bloodied budgets. With all the assaults upon public employees, schools and health care, bear in mind that our federal budget has an ironclad wall to keep progressives from dipping into Pentagon treasure to create, preserve or restore programs that might benefit struggling civilians.

Speaking of school, local high school students, working with a state grant, prepared a video for Tim O'Brien's (The Things They Carried) Get Lit Presentation. It appears these kids have learned much about filmmaking, editing and presentation. Unfortunately, they remain woefully uneducated on the topic of war. The Vietnam Veterans interviewed for their film, like some in the audience, seem to have left unprocessed any war information released since 1973, and the pervasive evil of war was un-addressed. Fortunately, the speakers, O'Brien and poet Brian Turner,
Continued on page 4:

present a more realistic perspective.

In February, I joined scores of veterans gathered by Sen. Patty Murray in Spokane. Assuming leadership of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs, she solicited veteran input on problems and services under her purview. I felt compelled to attend and testify, but I was unsure how to focus my comments, knowing there would be pressure to be brief. Prospective statements became chaotic as they surged toward my tongue. I was aware that I had never had an audience with this senator, that she had never asked me to expand upon suggestions I have made for cutting military spending and making our country more secure, that I was among people in uniform and people who lionize Murray for helping them with problems created by the military, that she may think her greatest accomplishment is insuring a significant portion of our grotesque military budget is spent in Washington.

I told her I believe most veterans want benefits and opportunities and hope, not just for ourselves, but for all Americans, particularly our children and grandchildren whom we hope will never be involved in combat. I don't know if it was the best use of my two minutes, but for someone who likes drama and bombast, I'm satisfied with my low-key remarks, for the moment. Now, I hope you'll join me and write her to say we can't do right by our wounded, disabled and disturbed veterans until we stop creating more of them. Tell her veterans need peace, just like everybody else. She should use her influence in Veterans Affairs to reduce our nation's reliance upon war as the default option for the economy, foreign policy and national security- it's obviously not working. And she should mitigate her past support for wasteful,

destructive military spending by working everyday for conversion from a war economy to a peace economy.

You who've expended much energy over the years to draw Sen. Murray's attention to alternatives to war might feel that it's a lost cause. She usually responds by saying how much she does for aging, ailing and dead veterans, for Fairchild Air Force Base, and Washington defense contractors. But, she's getting a dose of enlightenment, now. Online comments for her committee often go to the heart of problems for vets: war. "Cut military spending." "Bring the troops home." "Work for peace."

PJALS is less isolated on this issue than you might think. In April, the S-R ran a couple of letters referring to President Eisenhower's "Military-Industrial Complex" speech; easily making the connection to ever more bloated military budgets. PJALS folks had letters on local issues around that time, and I love to see that, but we can't leave all the military awareness to novices. Letters are appropriate anytime to the President, our senators and representatives, the editor, even our state and local officials who have been trained to think military spending is good for us.

In lieu of statistics, I'll resort to a little bumper sticker philosophy. Remember the guy who was maligned for his pacifist position even as he was celebrated for his mathematical genius? Albert Einstein said, "You cannot simultaneously prepare for peace and war." And that is as much about math as it is pacifisms.





Peace and Conflict Negotiations, By Dale Raugust

Prior to joining Americorps, I worked as a lawyer and a transformational mediator. Transformational mediation is a relatively new style of mediation in which the mediator is not so much interested in seeking a resolution to the particular conflict, but rather in allowing the parties to gain the skills to solve the conflict on their own so that the settlement is more likely to be successful and future conflicts can be solved without the need for intervention by a third party.

Those who study human conflict have presented three basic theories as to why people engage in conflict, the *power* theory (Abel, 1982), the *rights* theory (Fiss, 1984), and the *needs* theory (Menkel-Meadow, 1984). Of course conflict can be a combination of one or more of these motivations or sub-categories of one or more of the three basic motivators. Typically there are three types of advocators or interveners who attempt to resolve their client's conflicts: The lawyer who advocates for his/her client's rights; the community organizer who advocates for an increase of his/her client's power; and the planner who promotes a client's needs. The transformational theory of conflict assumes that regardless of whether a person is in conflict over power, rights, or needs, what people find most significant about the conflict is *how it makes them feel*, or the fear element of the conflict, and that in order for the person to be lifted out of conflict there must be more than just the satisfaction of their power, rights or needs issues; there must also be a transformational change in how the person in conflict is relating to others. Normally this means that there must be a release of the fear. A person who wins his rights in court, or gains power through community organizing, or is presented with a better plan to meet his/her needs is still going to be in conflict internally. A new conflict will soon manifest itself and the struggle will start over again.

International conflicts are no different than personal conflicts. For a peace movement to be successful the basic issues of the international conflict must be dealt with, and those issues tend to be the same as those presented in personal conflicts, whether those are rights issues, power issues, or needs issues. Deepak Chopra, in his book *Peace is the Way*, has suggested that the following nine steps must be included in negotiating a peaceful resolution of an international conflict. These same nine steps are often also necessary in resolving personal conflicts or in building a peace movement: 1) "*Show respect for your opponent*" What is necessary is for each side in the conflict to acknowledge that the other person or nation has *perceived* interests and grievances. It is not necessary to agree with those perceptions, but there must be respect for those feelings or beliefs. 2) "*Recognize perceived injustice*" Within most conflicts, whether personal or national, each party perceives that they have been injured. 3) "*Believe in forgiveness*" For a lasting resolution of the conflict, one that will not flare up again, there must be forgiveness for past grievances. For there to be forgiveness it is helpful if individuals or people in conflict have a perception that the resolution of the conflict is fair and equitable. There have been numerous peace accords or cease fires between Israel and her neighbors, but without the perception of fairness and forgiveness for past wrongs there can be no lasting peace.

Continued on page 13,

“Joy of No”, continued from page one.

spiritual growth. But saying no is not the same as being negative. Saying no is making a clear distinction about what is acceptable and what is not. It is setting a limit, just like parents need to do with children. In our economic, social, and political systems, there are powerful forces that don't like to be told they have limits (maybe like children who haven't heard it consistently enough?). It is in the interest of those forces to discourage and write off those who want to establish limits on their power, because they want to be able to impact others without consequence when those others (us) have less voice and less power. Given that imbalance of power, it's not surprising that cultural messages against “no” are fairly potent.

In my perspective, there is something feminist and absolutely essential about saying no and embracing that hard-earned right. How awful to be consigned to a “Stepford activist” existence of only saying hopeful, visionary things. I used to have nightmares where I couldn't scream. Losing my metaphorical voice, my ability to raise the alarm, is a horrifying concept to me. As Nancy Haque from Western States Center pointed out in a racial justice campaign workshop recently, “By calling out and naming racism for what it is, we're engaging in a fundamental and critical form of resistance, reclaiming truth and reality.” If it's taken as negative when we name reality and declare that business as usual can't continue, that again is probably more about what's at stake for those benefiting from business as usual and how well they've trained us to act on their behalf.

Sometimes saying no is the most practical move. For the “No New Jail” coalition, of which PJALS was an early endorser, it was and is imperative to say no to building a new

Jail while also putting forward alternatives to just continuing to lock up members of our community without funding for programming that helps stop the cycle of recidivism. No New Jail does this by consistently articulating what it calls “Smart Justice” examples: mental health programs, drug treatment programs, work release, electronic home monitoring, day reporting, and driver re-licensing programs. But it's imperative to educate voters who may still face a vote on a bond measure. We want them to vote no, so we have to say, “We don't need it, we can't afford it, and we can do better. Pledge now to vote no.” That's fairly basic, good voter education.

This brings me back to Barbara Deming's “two hands of nonviolence.” We hold up one palm to say no, and we extend the other hand, open, to offer another path. Stopping unacceptable behavior, changing structures and policies of oppression, and challenging oppressive and violent ideology is critical. So is engaging and putting forward a positive vision of an alternative future. Both are essential and neither can be neglected.

It's not easy to balance these two essential components. One great example was the “No” campaign in the plebiscite vote in Chile in 1980. Urging people to vote against dictator Pinochet continuing his presidency, the “no” campaign's refrain was, “*Porque creo en el futuro, voy a decir que ¡No!*” —“Because I believe in the future, I'm going to say No!” The campaign's TV commercials accompanied this cheerful tune with beautiful dancing children in their pastel 80's clothes, babies snuggling with their mamas, and rainbows. The combined message was very moving and inspirational. We say no because we are standing up for what we love. Love and righteous indignation are very powerful forces, and we need both.

Pictures from the NAACP March and Rally to “Demand Justice and Promote Peace”



Justin Mauger, PJALS Intern , and Ben Jealous, NAACP National President



Erica Scott, PJALS’ Steering Committee and Shar Lichty, PJALS’ Outreach Coordinator



Liz Moore, PJALS Director



Dale Raugust, PJALS’ Volunteer Coordinator and John Dickey , PJALS’ Intern holding the PJALS banner with PJALS delegation in background.

PJALS Opportunity Calendar, May-June, 2011

May's Events:

- May 1st, **Bloomsday**, PJALS will have volunteers working the crowd to obtain signatures to "Bring Our Billion\$ Home", Call Dale at 838-7870 to help.
- May 5, 5:30 pm **Peace and Justice Action Committee**, (PJAC) 35 W Main
- May 11, 5:15 pm **No New Jail**, 35 W Main
- May 11, 1 pm: **Palestine-Israel Human Rights Committee** (PIHRC), 35 W Main
- May 11, 6:45 pm **Vets for Peace**, 35 W Main
- May 12, 5:30 pm: Spokane Police Accountability Reform Coalition, (SPARC), 35 W Main
- May 14, 6:00 **PJALS' Annual Auction**
Unitarian Universalist Church
4340 W Ft George Wright Dr.
- May 17, 6:00 **PJALS Steering Committee**
- May 19, 5:30 pm **PJAC**, 35 W Main
- May 26, 5:30 pm **SPARC**, 35 W Main

Saturday, May 21, 1 pm
Magic Lantern theater,; Tickets: \$7
25 West Main

The YES Men Fix The World

This is a screwball true story about two gonzo political activists posing as top executives of giant corporations, pulling off outrageous pranks and in the process demonstrating the ways that corporate greed is destroying the planet.

Call 509-747-3012 for more information.

Let's Put an End to Corporate Personhood Two events, each different

Ending Corporate Personhood
How constitutional amendments happen
A conversation with Breean Beggs
Tuesday, May 3rd,
Community Building Lobby
6:15—Reception
7:00 Information and Conversation

And

The Exxon Valdez and BP Oil Disasters
How a PhD "fisherma'am" became a founding member of the Movement to Amend, and the big picture fo the corporate grab of democracy, how to fix it.
Town Hall/Forum
Saturday, May 21st
Unitarian Universalist Church of Spokane
6:15 Reception, 7:00 Presentation, Q & A

Dr. Riki Ott, environmental activist, Exxon Valdez disaster survivor, and founding member of Move to Amend, with 22 years of experience with the power of Exxon.

Craig Salins, executive director, Washington Public Campaigns, discussing the insidious effect of corporate and special interest money in buying access, setting the agenda, determining policy, and driving budget allocations in government. He'll connect the dots.

Rick Eichstaedt, Center for Justice: Rick represents organizations working to protect and restore the Spokane River watershed. Rick will look at how an amendment happens – the process, successes and failures, and what to expect from corporate America with the move to outlaw corporate personhood.

Presented by Washington Public Campaigns

PJALS Opportunity Calendar, May-June, 2011

June's Events:

June 2, 5:30 pm: **PJAC**, 35 W Main
 June 8, 5:15 pm: **No New Jail**, 35 W Main
 June 8, 1 pm: **Palestine-Israel Human Rights Committee, (PIHRC)**, 35 W Main
 June 8, 6:45 pm: **Vets for Peace**, 35 W Main
 June 8, 5:30 Peacekeeper Training, Nonviolent De-escalation Techniques.
 June 9, 5:30 pm: **SPARC**, 35 W Main
 June 11, Pride Parade, See OutSpokane.com.
 June 16, 5:30 pm: **PJAC**, 35 W Main
 June 21, 6:00 pm: **Steering Committee**
 June 23, 5:30 pm: **SPARC**, 35 W Main



So Sad, It will
 make you cry:
**DON'T MISS
 ANY ISSUES OF
 THE HANDFUL
 OF SALT**

**IF YOU HAVE NOT DONATED TO PJALS
 SINCE JAN. 2009, OR DONATED VOL-
 UNTEER HOURS, YOUR NAME WILL
 BE REMOVED FROM THE
 MAILING LIST.**

Go to www.pjals.org/contribute to donate.

You may also opt out of receiving the
 Handful of Salt by mail and read it online.
 We will, however, leave you on the e-mail list.
 Email draugust@pjals.org to let us know
 Or call Dale at 838-7870

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY 2011

**THE WRONG SIDE OF
 MURDER CREEK:
 A WHITE SOUTHERNER IN THE
 FREEDOM MOVEMENT**

Dr Bob Zellner
 Civil Rights Activist and Author

Spokane Community College Lair
 Tuesday, May 10, 2011
 7:30—11:30 am

Schedule of Events:

7:30-8:20 am:
 The history of the Ku Klux Klan
 In the Northwest
 Dr. Scott Finnie,
 History Professor, EWU
 8:30-10:20 am: Keynote Address:
 Dr. Bob Zellner





Pride Parade & Rainbow Festival 2011

By Shar Lichty

The date for this year's Pride Parade & Rainbow Festival is June 11th with the theme "Accept All: No Exceptions." PJALS will once again be providing peacekeepers for the parade. If you are either one of our seasoned peacekeepers or were recently trained, we need you. If you have not yet been trained we will offer training in nonviolent de-escalation techniques on June 8th. Contact Dale at 838-7870 or draugust@pjals.org to register. PJALS will also be participating in the parade this year so we need a delegation of PJALS members to march with us and our banner to show our support as an LGBT ally organization. The parade will begin at 12 pm with line up starting at 11 am. The Rainbow Festival will be at Riverfront Park following the parade and continuing on through the day. PJALS will have a table at this event and we need volunteers to take shifts staffing it. If you are available to volunteer as a peacekeeper and/or for tabling, please contact Dale.

Pride has always been one of my favorite Spokane events filled with love, inclusion and just plain fun. It is one of the days when I am most proud to live in Spokane. Please join us as either a volunteer or as part of our delegation and help strengthen our relationship with the LGBT community by showing our support as an ally organization. I encourage you to show up in your rainbow attire. Hope to see you there as we help spread the message to "Accept All: No Excetions."



Mark your calendars Annual PJALS auction is Saturday, May 14

The annual fundraising auction will be held at the Unitarian Church, 4340 West Fort George Wright Drive

(Located just west of the Mukogawa Fort George Wright entrance, near SFCC)

Potluck dinner and gathering time begins at 6:00 pm with the Silent auction items.

Live auction begins at 7:30 pm.

How to have a great time at the Auction: 7 things you should know!

1. **New setting:** We've moved! This year we have a new, more expansive site. The Unitarian church is spacious, light filled, and has plenty of room to comfortably enjoy conversation and food at the potluck, examine all the auction items and seamlessly transition to the auction bidding area.
2. **New items:** Favorites from previous auctions are still included, but we've got some great new items, as well: urban chicken farmer start-up package, delicious designer cupcakes, or

organic pasture-fed beef and pork, Clark Fork and North Cascades overnight stays, Mexican meal basket, lunch with Liz, plus much, much more.

3. **New inclusion** - bring the kids: Children's Room will include kid-friendly movies, popcorn, and games... but no licensed supervision! Kids 12 and under have free admission. Auction items for young people – kids gardening sets, poetry books, Silver wood tickets, electric motor scooters, and more.
4. **New early bird opportunity to win:** Purchase your auction admission tickets before April 29th and be entered in a special drawing.
5. **Plan ahead, pool your money:** Bring your friends so they can help you place winning bids on group dinners, outdoor adventures, or that organic beef or pork!
6. **Strategize** – Know ahead of time which items you may bid on: Check the PJALS web page for a listing of auction items, check back for new additions! And come early to check out the silent auction items.

Friendship and community: The auction is a great opportunity to break bread with like-minded people, so don't miss it!

2011 Peace & Economic Justice Action Conference Keynote Speech by Derrick Crowe of Rethink Afghanistan By Shar Lichty

Our conference kicked off began with a dynamic reception on Friday night. Following an hour of socializing and food, the performance portion began with the powerful drumming of Martin Alfaro and some SFCC students. The rest of the evening was equally moving with some spoken word, Gramma Lamba and the Amendments, a touching dramatic performance and the musical talents of Sheila Fox and Abe Kenney. The energy of the evening had me flying high well into the next day and the conference.

This year's conference was attended by over 160 individuals and offered 24 workshops, two panel discussions and Derrick Crowe with Rethink Afghanistan as our keynote speaker who spoke on the theme, Bring Our Billion\$ Home.

During his powerful speech Derrick addressed our current economic situation with, *“Our nation is twisting in the grip of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression. About 9.5 percent of all Americans are unemployed. Here in the Spokane metropolitan area, the unemployment rate is 10.5 percent. In fact, according to a recent CBS News report, the child poverty rate in the United States could hit 25 percent this year. To say that times are tough would be a gross understatement. Yet, at a time when so many Americans struggle to feed themselves or to keep their homes, our government is planning to spend more than \$107 billion just on the Afghanistan War, just for this year.*

Conference, Continued from page 11. This unmitigated disaster in Afghanistan costs the U.S. taxpayer in excess of \$2 billion per week. Put another way, we're paying \$1 million per soldier, per year. All told, when spending approved so far by Congress is accounted for, the U.S. has committed to pay half a trillion dollars just in direct costs for the Afghanistan War."

He brought these affects home to our community with, *"Just to put this horrendous waste in context a bit: An article on the City of Spokane's public website says that to close a \$12 million shortfall in the general fund, the city in which we meet today has made what they call "drastic" reductions in the portion of the budget that pays for "basic government services, including Police, Fire, Streets, Parks, and Libraries." These cuts ended 120 jobs as well, in a city with a 10.5 percent unemployment rate, well above the national unemployment rate. Yet on average, the Afghanistan War costs has cost the taxpayers of this city roughly twice the shortfall these cuts were meant to address, and the same is true in communities all over the country."*

Derrick then gave us some hope with his message on how we are winning, *"It's a common idea among people who consider themselves activists that a lack of huge rallies, marches or mass demonstrations equals a dead movement. Thankfully, these activists are just wrong. The author of the Politico article quoted above unwittingly described a social movement that is succeeding and that has outgrown a particular stage of its life and moved on to a much more powerful and widespread incarnation. According to Bill Moyer's seminal 2001 book on social movements, Doing Democracy, huge rallies, marches and other demonstrations are expected to fade away as a movement progresses through the various*

Stages of its life toward success. If we look through the lens of Moyer's model of social movements, its clear that not only is the anti-Afghanistan War movement not "over," but we're winning." To watch this keynote address, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVc-9bM7mJQ&>

Having Derrick Crowe as our keynote speaker was just one of many highlights that made this year's conference so rewarding for me; getting together with so many local activists, particularly from various peace groups in the region, fueled my sense of hope. We were able to strengthen PJALS relationship with these groups during one of the workshop sessions and hope to be able to network more productively in coordinating all of efforts in the future as well as working together on specific events.

As the anchor for organizing this event, I was able to grow professionally and personally. In case you missed it, here are the co-sponsors whose support turned the conference into a fundraiser this year: Unitarian Universalist Church; Vets for Peace; Spokane PDA; Boundary County Peace Group; Yakima Valley Peace Advocates Network; NextUp Spokane; Eastern Washington Voters; The LGBT Center; Student Awareness League of SCC; Western Washington FOR; Palouse Peace Coalition; Code Pink Spokane; Sustainable Structures; KYRS; Sharon Smith and Don Barbieri; Sun People Dry Goods; Community Building Foundation; ACLU-WA; UFCW 1439; VOICES; WPC; Planned Parenthood; NAACP; Teleologics; Liberty Park UMC.

Despite all of the hard work we put into this event, it would not have been a success without all the wonderful folks that showed up to take part in it. Thank you all for making this event so enjoyable and successful. I look forward doing it all again next year.

Raugust, Continued from page 5.

4) *“Bond at an emotional level.”* Some wars have been fought because the leaders just did not like one another. Enduring peace is more likely when leaders have developed a relationship. International travel, exchange students, and social media promote emotional bonds with the other country. 5) *“Stop all belligerent actions.”* Peace negotiations while continuing belligerent actions are insincere. A ceasefire is essential for effective negotiations. 6) *“Recognize values that are opposed to yours.”* Unless we can recognize that the other party or nation have values which are opposed to our own values and we can come to the negotiation table respecting those values as mentioned in #1 above, the negotiations will not likely be successful. 7) *“Don’t pass judgment and make your opponent wrong.”* Within wars as well as personal conflicts most nations and people believe that they are in the right and that the other party is not. As mentioned in #2 above, it is important to recognize the views of the other party to the conflict and acknowledge that their feelings or beliefs support their perception of the conflict. 8) *“Don’t talk in terms of ideology.”* This is critical to resolving a conflict as ideology makes it near impossible to negotiate a settlement. I use here the definition of ideology from Webster’s Dictionary: “The body of ideas upon which a particular political, economic, or social system is based.” Fundamental ideology was the principle culprit in the Cold War. The Cold War was a contest of ideology, socialism verses capitalism, or in many cases, big business verses indigenous landless people. Contrary to some people’s beliefs, the Cold War was not a contest between democracy and totalitarianism as the United States made clear when again and again it overthrew democratic

governments, replacing them with dictators, when the democratic governments were attempting significant economic reforms. Throughout history the contest of ideology can be seen in the many religious wars as well. Eckhart Tolle wrote in *A New Earth* that: “We are coming to an end of...ideologies and belief systems.” The end of fundamental ideology is an essential component of a lasting peace. Of course there is a difference between not talking in terms of ideology when negotiating conflict resolution and ending the concept of ideology. Ideology can provide a unifying set of beliefs in order to deliver a consistent message and unite groups of people. 9) *“Confront the underlying factor of fear.”* This should really be listed first as confronting fear is necessary before many of the other factors can be implemented. Fear is the factor behind all wars and also all personal conflicts. The only way that fear can be eliminated from personal conflicts is by eliminating it from your personal life. On an international level fear is reduced when people understand that they have the power to effect change. We saw this in Egypt, as more and more people took to the streets, the fear of Mubarak dissipated.

There will be wars and conflicts until a sufficient mass of people become aware, on a conscious level, what each one of us are choosing in our thoughts, words, and actions. When we choose to respond to fear and hate with love and compassion, a transformation will begin, first within our own lives, and then within the lives of those that we perceive are attacking us, the oppressors and war mongers. It is clear that throughout the world there has been a steady movement towards greater awakening. It is my belief that within a few generations our level of individual awareness and our collective consciousness will allow us to implement the systems for maintaining world peace.

Libya — Humanitarian Intervention or Ruthless Hypocrisy?

By Mike Nuess

On April 5th 2011, Noam Chomsky reported “Last month, at the international tribunal on crimes during the civil war in Sierra Leone, the trial of former Liberian president Charles Taylor came to an end. The chief prosecutor, U.S. law professor David Crane, informed The Times of London that the case was incomplete: The prosecutors intended to charge Muammar Gaddafi, who, Crane said, “was ultimately responsible for the mutilation, maiming and/or murder of 1.2 million people.” But the charge was not to be. The U.S., U.K. and others intervened to block it. Asked why, Crane said, “Welcome to the world of oil.” (1) References available online at <http://www.teleologics.org/links/libya.html>.

It begins when over half of our income taxes pay for direct and indirect military spending, which reallocates those dollars to the too-big-fail arms production industry that produces the best for the U.S. and sells all the rest it can to the supported dictators of Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, etc. in order to retrieve the dollars we sent there to buy oil. Then, when a few dictators either disobey or get in the way, like Hussein and now Gaddafi, our taxes are again deployed to bomb things back "in line." After the dust settles and the blood dries, only those world citizens with some compassion seek to alleviate at least in part the tragic suffering.

The humanitarian motive was obviously dormant before the Libyan uprising. Obama was working to deliver Gaddafi another \$77 million in weapons, on top of \$17 million in 2009 and \$46 million Bush provided in 2008.

European governments doled out nearly half a billion in 2009 to this dictator who was “ultimately responsible for the mutilation, maiming and/or murder of 1.2 million people.” (2)

In many well documented cases, including the 1999 U.S./NATO bombing of Yugoslavia and the 1991 U.S. invasion of Iraq, violent intervention moved swiftly, successfully ignoring, discrediting or brushing off viable alternatives.

Now it has emerged that viable alternatives were ignored in the case of Libya. For example, UCLA law professor Asli Bali, says the U.S.-led coalition has ignored viable alternatives to military attacks, such as the pre-bombing suggestion of the International Crisis Group. (3)

Another example was the pre-intervention offer of Venezuela’s Hugo Chavez to immediately mediate between Gaddafi and the opposition. Chavez proposed an international peace mission with forces from friendly nations to try to mediate the unrest gripping Libya and avoid civil war. (4) Reuters reported that both Gaddafi and the Arab League accepted Chavez's proposal, while others said the Arab League was still considering it. (5)

The predictable happened when this offer was quickly scoffed at by the U.S., Britain and France. U.S. Democratic Senator Robert Menendez reported on March 4 that Libya's defecting envoy to the U.S told him the opposition forces *will* reject the proposal. Menendez didn't even mention Chavez when he asked the question, he had only mentioned "efforts to seek a negotiated solution." (6)

Since then little has been reported, and it is apparent that Chavez’s proposal has been stonewalled as the media prints only claims such as that of Win Thin, head of *emerging market strat-*

trategy at Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. (oldest and largest U.S. private bank in the U.S., for whom U.S. Marine General Smedley Butler installed dictators in Central America), “Chavez is hardly an impartial third party in this conflict, as he has cozied up to Qaddafi over the years. We would not expect opposition forces to be very open to any sort of Chavez intervention.” (7)

Though the U.S. has proclaimed humanitarian intervention as a virtual trademark of its foreign policy, there is not one case—from Granada to Vietnam—where the documentary record concurs. In fact it's the opposite: in every case the record clearly indicates the real basis to have been a global form of the Monroe Doctrine.

At the dawn of the 20th Century, President McKinley spoke of his humanitarian decision to, “educate the Filipinos and uplift and civilize and Christianize them,” by invading and slaughtering over 200,000 with no mention of the vital role the Philippines were to play as a coaling station for the U.S. Navy.

In 1954, U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles promised to support “a prosperous and progressive Guatemala” as he implemented a CIA coup that destroyed its popularly elected government, installed a series of dictators who would murder over 200,000 Guatemalans, and restored the dominance of a large U.S. corporation—United Fruit (now Chiquita Banana).

So in the case of Libya today, we would be correct to assume the most probable hypothesis is that the U.S., Britain and France have been stirring up trouble in Libya to control its rich eastern oil fields by fomenting a violent civil war context and cutting off viable alternative negotiations until a last-minute attack

seemed to be all that remained to prevent the large scale slaughter of civilians.

Already the U.S., Britain and France have gone beyond the UN mandate for a no fly zone intended to prevent a large massacre of civilians. We can expect to see a U.S. supported set of armed “rebels” (freedom fighters may have become too obvious a term) who refuse to compromise, responding to U.S. direction as the U.S. seeks a more reliable client for the third largest oil producer of Africa with its large, expected but undiscovered oil reserves.

We can expect more of the same since the real motive is not peoples’ security but petrol and other dominance (like perhaps termination of Gaddafi’s initiative to create a united African continent with its own currency (10), and /or diverting attention from covert U.S. support of violent suppression in Bahrain and Yemen). Yes more of the same, though that will further isolate the U.S. from the nations of the region and the world, increase hostility toward the people of the U.S. and ratchet up the risk of terrorism here at home.

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