



Editor: Melanie Dietzel, 479-442-8600

Pease send upcoming events to this email address:

melaniedietzel@yahoo.com

OMNI CENTER---UPCOMING EVENTS, MEETINGS and CALENDAR SPECIAL MESSAGES

HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY



PEACE SYMBOL

ARKANSAS PEACE HEROES NOMINATIONS OPEN

Nominations for Omni's annual Peace and Justice Heroes Awards opens April 1 and closes May 1. This will be the fourth anniversary of this special evening. Many community leaders who don't normally attend Omni events, enjoy the Peace and Justice Heroes Awards, we have friends of peace and justice who come from many other parts of Arkansas as well.

Four Peace Heroes Awards are presented every year. The criteria are 1) must be a resident of Arkansas; 2) must be recognized by her/his community to be a fine example of having a commitment to and working for peace and justice causes; 3) they must be able to attend the awards banquet on June 14 at St. Paul's Episcopal; 4) awards must be spread around the state, and 5) they can't be a member of Omni's steering committee.

You may have friends who you know need recognition for service they do. Last year's Heroes included Eleanor Johnson (Wonderful Fayetteville community activist over a 50-year period, now 92 years old); Sam Totten (genocide expert working with Darfur refugees); Rennell Woods (Jonesboro youth program director operating City Youth Ministries); and Bill Kopsky (Executive Director of Citizens First Congress and social change dynamo, Little Rock).

Every year the Heroes have been incredible. Great work for peace and justice is quietly going on all over Arkansas. Omni depends on people like you to help us find these folks. Please go to Omni's website and look for "Peace Heroes Awards" to find a nomination form. Nominate your friends, or yourself. The nominating committee will do the rest.

For more information email Gladys at gladystiffany@yahoo.com.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO MAKE OMNI'S EARTHFEST/POLAR ARCADE AN EVENT TO REMEMBER

A Message from Kelly Mulhollan and Donna Stjerna

Volunteers are needed for OMNI's Earthfest/Polar Arcade. For the past several years, Omni has used the Rose Garden of the Walton Arts Center during Springfest to share its message of Peace, Justice and Ecology with a wider public. This year is going to be the biggest event yet, and we need LOTS of volunteers. The Earthfest and Polar Arcade will have a Buy Locally/Recycle/Environmental theme. THE DATE IS SATURDAY APRIL 26. We need volunteers for 2 1/2 hour shifts from 11am-1:30 pm and 1:30 pm - 4pm (Tear down from 4pm-6pm).

Some of the highlights of the day include: A Polar Arcade with 6 Carnival type games that teach about the environment (if you want to know about the whole event and games in detail, let me know and I'll send you a detailed plan).

We will have an OMNI Video Underground Movie Theater, and we'll need helpers to set up chairs and make sure that all run smoothly . . . meet and greet movie goers etc.

Eco-Kids Craft Area—WE REALLY NEED HELP WITH THIS AREA!!! We need a co-coordinator and volunteers to make this happen.

We need volunteers to Stamp Passports, Meet and Greet at the entrances, help with Snow cones, Set up on Friday evening and tear down Saturday evening.

MOSTLY, WE NEED Polar Bear BARKERS (We provide masks). Barkers are the folks that run the arcade games (STEP RIGHT UP FOLKS). The barkers are theatrical types, but each barker needs an assistant to set the games back up, or pick up the rings from the toss games . . . the assistant doesn't have to be a performer like the barker. There is SO much to tell. Please contact Donna 582-2291 or email still@stillonthehill.com if you can help.

(Omni C.A.T. Connection Information has been moved and is with media information)

OMNI CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

--April 13, Sunday, 2-4p.m., Omni Earth Scouts Kids Club, Jones Center Room 222 - Kids ages 2-15 and their families will have a blast earning badges and learning about saving the earth and the creatures that live on her - including humans. More info contact Sara at sara@everydaysimple.org

--April 13, Sunday, 7:00p.m. -VIDEO UNDERGROUND -"Speaking Freely: Susan George on Neo-liberalism" Here is a synopsis from <http://www.cinemalibrestore.com> Susan George, author of more than a dozen books, is the Chair of the Planning Board of the Transnational Institute in Amsterdam, a fellowship of scholars living throughout the world whose work is intended to contribute to social justice. Born in the United States and now living near Paris, George became a French citizen in 1994. From 1999 to 2006, she served as Vice-President of ATTAC France (Association for Taxation of Financial Transaction to Aid Citizens). She is currently focusing her attention on the issue of neo-liberal globalization and engaged in a campaign to democratize the World Trade Organization. Screentime: 52 minutesOmni Center

Video Underground shows FREE political, social, and current event videos every second and fourth Sunday of the month. These movies are shown at the OMNI CENTER FOR PEACE, JUSTICE, AND ECOLOGY located on the main floor of the Presbyterian and Disciples United Campus Ministry, 902 West Maple at Storer Ave. in Fayetteville. For more information, visit omni-vu-films.blogspot.com or contact Gerald Sloan at 575-6302 or gsloan@uark.edu

--April 17, Thursday, 5:30p.m. potluck, 6:00p.m., Omni Steering Committee Meeting, Downstairs, United Campus Ministries, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville.

--April 17, Thursday, 6:30 pm - Movie at NWACC Bentonville - *Paragraph 175*, about Nazi persecution of the GLBT community. One of the features of the OMNI-NWACC Film Festival, this movie will be screened in the Shewmaker Center of the Northwest Arkansas Community College at 1100 S.E. Eagle Way, Bentonville (See the full Film Festival Schedule below).

--April 20, Sunday, 1-5p.m., Earth Day at World Peace Wet Land Prairie - Lauren Hawkins has been planting flowers on the peace sign garden at WPWP. She has dug holes for trees to be planted. You're invited to be part of the Earth Day celebration. Spend an afternoon planting trees, and seeing all that is growing in this special plot of land. . For more information, contact Aubrey Shepherd.

--April 20, Sunday, 6:30P.M. HOWL: Women's Open Mic at Nightbird Books, Old Mill Building, Corner of School and 6th Streets, Fayetteville - HOWL happens the third Sunday of each month at Nightbird Bookstore. At HOWL, women are invited to read poems (their own or another woman writer's), share short prose or sing at an open mic forum hosted by Mendy Knott. So come read, sing or play your work to a really receptive audience. It's a great place to "try out" new work, share your masterpieces, or read for the very first time. Men and women are warmly invited to attend this celebration of women's words. Nightbird Books is located in the old mill buildings at the corner of School and 6th ST. Their phone number is 443-2080. Reading starts at 6:30 but come early to sign up to read, browse the books and enjoy the good company. For HOWL questions or to join our mailing list, email howl@herwords.org. HOWL is a collaboration between Herwords and the Omni Center, supported Nightbird Books in Fayetteville, AR.

--May 3, Saturday, 10:00a.m., Omni Rapid Responders, Fayetteville Public Library

--May 4, Sunday, 6:30p.m. (note new time), Omni Open Mic for Peace, Nightbird Books, Old Mill Building, Corner of S. School and 6th Streets, Fayetteville - Don't miss the last Open Mic of the season. Bring your music and poetry about Peace, Justice and Ecology to share, or just come to listen.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS---UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

--April 7, Monday, 2:30p.m., "Berbers and/as Jews: Masquerade Politics in Southeastern Morocco," a lecture by Paul Silverstein, Professor of Anthropology at Reed College. - This lecture, to be given in Giffels Auditorium, Old Main 2nd floor, University of Arkansas Campus, is sponsored by the University of Arkansas King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies. The lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, call 575-4157 or email tsweden@uark.edu. Professor Silverstein is the author of the book, Algeria in France: Transpolitics, Race, and Nation.

--April 11, Friday, 3:30-5:30p.m., Islam Democracy, Multicultural Center, 404 Arkansas Union, UofA Campus, Fayetteville - This Seminar and Question and Answer Session with Professor Najib Ghabdian and Imam Mubasher Ahmad is sponsored by Al-Islam (The Peace) Students Association and University of Arkansas Multicultural Center

--April 12, Saturday, 6:00p.m., The SOUND OF AFRICA BANQUET, Arkansas Union Ballroom - This event is hosted by African Students Organization to raise money for charity work in Africa. Free, but attendees are requested to make a donation. For more information, please call Nelson Sello at 856-2855

--April 17, Thursday, 6:00p.m., Northwest Arkansas Chapter ACLU of Arkansas 2008 Spring Banquet and Annual Meeting, Fayetteville Senior Center, 945 S. College Ave., Fayetteville - Judge Wendell L Griffen will be the Keynote Speaker. The ACLU of Arkansas defended Judge Griffen's right to freedom of speech when the Arkansas Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission attempted to discipline him for making public statements that were critical of the Bush administration and the University of Arkansas Athletics Department. The social hour begins at 6:00a.m. with a Barbeque Buffet (catered by Penguin Ed's Barbeque) to begin at 7:00p.m. Cost for the evening is \$45.00 per person (\$25.00 of which is tax deductible), \$25.00 for students (\$5.00 is tax deductible).

Advance reservations are required. Please make your check to "ACLU of Arkansas," and send it to Chapter Treasurer, Frank Head, 402 W. Ila Fayetteville, AR 72701. To reserve your seat, you may call him at 479-521-1508 or email him at fhaed@aol.com. Tickets are not mailed out, but there will be a roster of paid and reserved seats at the door. The chapter does not want anyone to go hungry and they do not want to waste food. So please indicate whether you're coming and how many in your party, even if you plan to pay at the door. Deadline for reservations is April 10, 2008.

The Affiliate Office in Little Rock is pleased to offer ten free student tickets to the banquet on a first come first serve basis. Contact for this offer is Rita Sklar, Executive Director - ACLU of Arkansas, 501-374-2842.

--April 25-28, Friday - Monday, Washington, DC, Amnesty International Annual Meeting (AIUSA) - The meeting includes a congressional lobby day on April 28. For more information, please contact www.amnestyusa.org/agm

--April 27, Saturday, 2:00p.m., Fayetteville Free Thinkers, Fayetteville Public Library - The Fayetteville Free Thinkers meets on the last Saturday of each month.

--May 24, Saturday, 6:00p.m. An Evening with Sister Helen Prejean, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 224 N. East St., Fayetteville

--May 25, Sunday, 10:00a.m., A Conversation with Sister Helen Prejean, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 224 N. East St., Fayetteville - Both of these events are part of St. Paul's Tippy McMichael Series. Sister Helen is the popular author of Dead Man Walking, the book that challenged the way we look at the death penalty in America. Open to the public, admission is free.

WHAT'S GOING ON?---CURRENT EVENTS and INFORMATION

LOCALLY:

(New Items will have Green Heading)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO DISTRIBUTE SURPLUS TREES

The Arkansas Forestry Commission is in the position of having about 50,000 surplus trees in their coolers that need to be distributed. Sierra Club has volunteered to help making this happen.

The Sierra Club is looking for a few good women and men to volunteer to help hand out free trees to Arkansans who want to give the trees a good home.

The work involves helping with bagging and distribution in store parking lots on either **April 12th or April 19th from the hours of 10 a.m.-4 p.m.** Volunteers will be helping the Forestry Commission hand out black walnut trees and five different kinds of oak trees.

This is a great way to help beautify Arkansas and help fight global warming by taking CO2 out of the atmosphere.

If you're interested in helping, please contact **Dina Nash at 501-246-3026 or 479-530-8328.**

OMNI MEMBERS BRING HOME 2008 FAT CAT AWARDS

In the Education category, Moshe and Hamsa Newmark took home an award for their film, "Peace Garden Tour" which is a documentary visiting gardens that were featured in the Omni Center's Annual Peace Garden Tour. Bill Orton who edits most of taping of Omni events also earned an award in the Education category for "What is Anarchism?"

In the Music and Party category, Marion Orton and Bill Orton received an award for "Omni Open Mic and Duane Carr CD Release"

Marion Orton was also a Leadership Award recipient. Congratulations to all the FAT CAT AWARD WINNERS.

OMNI NEEDS A COUNTER-RECRUITING COORDINATOR

"I believe the best chance we have of keeping the current wars from eclipsing the 10-year length of Vietnam would be if groups put much more emphasis on cutting off the flow of human resources, i.e., through counter-recruitment work and school demilitarization work. That's something that the media, Congress and the next president would not be able to ignore...." Rick Jahnkow, Coord., Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (YANO). Read his essay: http://www.projectyano.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=40&Itemid=1

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact **Gladys Tiffany 973-9049 or gladystiffany@yahoo.com**

OMNI-NWACC WILL BE SHOWING FOUR MORE FILMS DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL.

ALL OF THEM WILL BE FROM 6:30-9:00 P.M. AT THE SHEWMAKER CENTER, CAMPUS OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE. ADMISSION IS FREE AND DISCUSSIONS WILL FOLLOW.

--**April 9 (Wed.) - JESUS CAMP:** This Oscar-nominated documentary offers a look at a revivalist subculture where devout Christian youngsters are being primed to deliver the fundamentalist community's religious and political messages. Trailer: <http://www.jesuscampthemovie.com>

--**April 17 (Wed.) - PARAGRAPH 175:** Reveals the Nazi persecution of gays under Paragraph 175, the anti-sodomy provision of the German penal code. Trailer: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5wC7SESYiI>

--**April 22 (Tues. - Earth Day) - TRASHED:** A documentary on the history, politics, and economics of trash which focuses not only on the problem, but also on solutions. Trailer: <http://www.trashedmovie.com/>

--**April 23 (Wed.) - FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO:** A documentary about five Christian families struggling with gay rights and how the religious right has used its interpretation of the Bible to stigmatize the gay community. Trailer: <http://www.forthebibletellsmeso.org/media.htm>

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS WEEK ON UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS CAMPUS

Human Rights Awareness Week will take place on the University of Arkansas campus April 14 - 18, 2008.

The week will begin with a Recognition and Remembrance Ceremony at 6:00p.m. on Monday, April 14 at the Peace Fountain where we will recognize current human rights situations and remember those who have worked for human rights in the past and have been victims of the most egregious violations of human rights.

Tuesday through Thursday at 6:30 pm documentaries about human rights issues will be showed.

Friday will feature the second annual From Dickson to Darfur. This event will begin at 7:30p.m. with a march up Dickson St. to protest the continued genocide in Darfur region of Sudan, and will continue with speakers, a hunger banquet, and bands, as well as the opportunity to learn about human rights issues including Darfur and ways to take action on those issues.

SECONDDANNUAL "PUPPETS IN THE PARK" FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING THE NATIONAL DAY OF PUPPETRY!

The 2nd Annual "Puppets in the Park" Festival will be held Sunday, April 27, 1-6pm, Wilson Park, Fayetteville. Puppet Shows for all ages, a Puppet Parade, and Workshops, with Music and Masks and Monsters - oh my!

Featuring: Toucan Jam, Animo, Walnut Farm Montessori Students, Captain Bubbles, Mary and Lolly, Haley Duke, Valley Productions, and Special International Guests.

Bring chairs or a blanket. Vendors will be on site with food, drinks, and puppet merchandise. Don't miss this festive event for the whole family celebrating the art of the puppet! FREE!

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY IN ARKANSAS INFORMATION FROM ARKANSAS EARTH DAY FOUNDATION

Arkansas Earth Day Foundation is a non-profit local coalition of concerned families, inspired seekers, elected leaders, and responsible businesses working to increase community awareness of environmental issues and access to sustainable solutions through education, events, recycling, networking, products and services.

If you are interested in becoming involved, supporting our vision, or just finding more information about us and our events, check out our website at www.ArkansasEarthDay.org or attend one of our upcoming meetings!

Also, contact April the Executive Director at 501-733-9996 or info@arkansasearthday.org or visit our office (after calling ahead) at 120 Cross St. / Little Rock, AR 72201.

--EARTH DAY FEST AT OZARKS - April 17th - FREE From 11am to 1pm

Outdoor picnic and educational booths set up on the mall at U of O, (or in the Seay Student Center if it rains).

Seeking AR environmental organizations willing to man a booth to help inform, inspire, empower. University of the Ozarks is at 415 N. College Ave., Clarksville, AR. Contact Jenny Levin: jlevin@ozarks.edu (479)518-0407

--Heifer International's HUNDRED MILE MEAL PROGRAM - April 18 Program FREE - Dinner \$20

5th annual local-foods dinner and program with speaker Chef Ann Cooper. Program is from 7:30pm to 9pm. The dinner is optional and will be from 6pm to 7:30pm. Event is in the Doubletree Hotel ballroom. For tickets contact Rainbow Brown, (501)907-4961.

--EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AT THE LITTLE ROCK ZOO - April 18-19 \$8 Adults - \$6 Kids and seniors

The Zoo's Earth Day Celebration will feature interactive booths, games, and other educational materials all centered on the earth and environmental responsibility. Come out and learn where drinking water comes from or how our cities take care of waste. Admission to the Zoo's Earth Day Celebration is free with general admission.

--ROGERS ENVIRONMENTAL DAY - April 19 - FREE

Fun day for families to learn about the environment with live music and an aluminum can drive. Booths are free and there is still time to sign up. LOCATION: Main Street, downtown Rogers, AR

--See Earth Day activities at our own World Peace Wet Land Prairie in the Omni Calendar section of this newsletter.

--Don't Forget our own EarthFest Celebration, Saturday, April 26 (See call for volunteers at top of newsletter)

2008 \$500 Annual OMNI CRITICAL THINKING AWARDS TEACHERS IN WASHINGTON AND BENTON COUNTIES, ARKANSAS

What is Critical Thinking?

Critical Thinking is the use of knowledge, facts, science, evidence, logic to evaluate and understand ideas and information, to detect falsehood, and to form conclusions, judgments, and inferences.

Why do we need it?

Today, more than ever before, we are bombarded with commercial and political propaganda. Clear Thinking enables us to decide if what we read and hear is true, factual, biased, or manipulative.

Clear Thinking also enables us to recognize our own fallacious thinking, biases, and assumptions.

Reasoning together through knowledge and language is an alternative to violence. The practice of Critical Thinking helps, by creating active, informed citizens, invigorates democracy. "Critical thinking skills" imply an ability to analyze ideas, stories, claims, and assertions both through relevant, factual knowledge and by training in analysis and by being able to think for oneself. Independent mindedness and autonomy have long been considered essential to a democracy since President Jefferson.

These awards are sponsored by OMNI Center for Peace, Justice, and Ecology.

We at OMNI are devoted to the advancement of reasoned contemplation and conversation about issues that affect our community and world. We seek to extend the influence of reason and informed debate. The deadline for nominations in May 1, 2008.

INVITATIONS TO TEACHERS, THE OMNI CRITICAL THINKING AWARDS

Washington and Benton counties public school teachers from all disciplines are invited to fill out an application and submit materials about their teaching of Critical Thinking. The awards recognize both specific teaching units or projects and teachers who incorporate clear thinking into their everyday classes.

County committees of local citizens chosen from various walks of life will evaluate the applications. When the committee has made its decision, OMNI will offer one \$500 award to the Washington County teacher and one \$500 award to the Benton County teacher who has been selected as the most outstanding. (More information is available on OMNI's website (www.omnicenter.org)). Also contact the coordinators: Lynda Haley-Brothers, Washington County (teacherhuman@cox.net) and Carole Westby, Benton County (westbyforhouse98@cox.net).

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE ARKANSAS COALITION FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

Back by popular demand: We will be protesting again at noon on the first Saturdays of the next two months--April 5th, and May 3rd. These events will be at the corners of Bowman and Chenal in Little Rock. Please remember that these are peaceful demonstrations and that we are always supportive of the troops and their families. We believe that Peace is Patriotic! We need good signs with large print giving positive messages for peace and for an end to war. Invite your friends, neighbors and family members to come with you.

2008 MIDWEST WIMMIN'S FESTIVAL

The 2008 MIDWEST WIMMIN'S FESTIVAL will be at Lake of the Ozarks State Park near Columbia, MO. Tuesday, May 13 through Sunday, May 18. Cabins, dining hall, rec hall, and about 100 wimmin with a dock down at the lake. Great for kayaks or canoes, floaties and floating. For more information contact www.midwestfestival.com _ jori@joricostello.com

JULY BOOK FORUM

The Book Forum for July is *WORSHIPPING THE MYTHS OF WORLD WAR II: REFLECTIONS ON AMERICA'S DEDICATION TO WAR* by Edward Wood, Jr. We will meet at 6:30p.m. at Nightbird Books. This book is short, clear, and significant. The book will hopefully end the fraudulent exploitation of WWII to promote and defend all the wars of aggression by the US since WWII. There is still an opening on the panel, and a publicist is needed. For more information, contact Dick Bennett 442-4600 or jbennet@uark.edu

LATEST BIBLIOGRAPHY

Biblio #28 compiled by Dick Bennett contains annotated books ranging from the subjects Abu Ghraib, Activism, Animal Rights, Bicycles, and Bush, to Water, Whistleblowers, Women, Workers Rights, and World War II, and many other topics, with special attention to Books for Children, Control of Information, Global Warming, Hope, and Iraq War. Go to www.omnicenter.org and click on Bibliographies.

Submitted by Dick Bennett
jbennet@uark.edu

NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

HISTORIANS AGAINST THE WAR NATIONAL CONFERENCE APRIL 11-13

The conference at Georgia State University's downtown Atlanta campus begins on Friday evening April 11 with a keynote speech by Bill Fletcher Jr., longtime activist in the labor and black freedom movements who has been president of the TransAfrica Forum and education director of the national AFL-CIO. We still don't know if Naomi Klein, author of No Logo and The Shock Doctrine, will be able to come but if she can she will also speak as part of the Friday evening program.

A second keynote session, 5:00 - 6:45 pm on Saturday, will feature Middle East historians Zachary Lockman of NYU, president of the Middle East Studies Association 2006-2007, and Dina Rizk Khoury, Iraq historian at George Washington University.

There will be over twenty panels, roundtables, and workshops, distributed among four time slots: one Saturday morning, two Saturday afternoon, and one Sunday morning. for more information, see the conference web site: <http://www.historiansagainstawar.org/hawconf> (click on "Sessions").

THE PEOPLE'S SUMMIT

Our response to NAFTA expansion on April 21 - 23, 2008, New Orleans, Louisiana
Coming together for our communities, linking the Gulf Coast struggle to the fight for the survival of communities in Mexico, Canada, and the rest of the United States, building collective knowledge and action to transform NAFTA & other unjust economic policies pushed by Bush, Calderon, and Harper

Monday, 4/21

9am--12pm Community Tour of New Orleans & Story Circles in Congo Square
12--1:30pm Opening Ceremony & Lunch in Congo Square
2pm--5pm Understanding Who Profits & How: NAFTA+ and Katrina Profiteering
6pm--9pm Understanding Who Profits & How: NAFTA+ and Katrina Profiteering

Tuesday, 4/22

9am--12pm Self-organized sessions
1pm--4pm Self-organized sessions
6pm--9pm Breaking Inferiority & Superiority to Restore Ourselves & Our Communities

Wednesday, 4/23

10am Press Conference

To register a self-organized session and to get more information, **contact James Williams, Organizer with the American Friends Service Committee, at 504-307-6588 or peoplessummit@gmail.com**

STOPMAX CONFERENCE

From May 31 to June 1, The **STOPMAX Campaign**, sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), works to eliminate the use of isolation and segregation in U.S. prisons. Our strategies include research, grassroots organizing, public education and policy advocacy to abolish solitary confinement and / or reduce its use.
<http://www.afsc.org/stopmax/AbouttheCampaign.htm>

15-WEEK RESIDENTIAL INTERNSHIP WITH SOCIAL CHANGE FOCUS

Would you or a young adult you know like to spend 15 weeks living, learning, and working in the Southern Appalachian Mountains with people who have a passion for creating humane, sustainable social change?
If so, check out . . .

The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center
Room and Board at The Mountain plus \$100/week stipend
Fall '08 Session: August 11 - November 24
Spring '09 Session: January 19 - May 4

The residency program helps young adults cultivate a sense of meaning and purpose so that they carry an authentic commitment to social change into their relationships, work, and life choices. Participants in the residency program leave The Mountain with concrete skills, a lifelong thirst for greater awareness, and the belief that they have the capacity AND RESPONSIBILITY TO WORK WITH OTHERS TO BRING PEACE, JUSTICE, AND SUSTAINABILITY TO THE CENTER OF THEIR COMMUNITIES.

For more information about this exciting new program, [Click here](#) for Application and Reference Forms

THE CENTER FOR SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST HOLDS FOURTH NATIONAL INTEGRITY IN SCIENCE CONFERENCE

Save the Date! July 11, 2008, The Center for Science in the Public Interest will be holding its Fourth National Integrity in Science Conference. Titled *Rejuvenating Public Sector Science*, it will be held at the Ronald Reagan International Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20004. Become part of the growing movement to reinvigorate public sector science and end corporate and political influence over the scientific

process. Conference details and registration will soon be available at:

http://www.cspinet.org/integrity/conflictedscience_conf.html If you wish to co-sponsor and help build the conference, please contact kstade@cspinet.org.

GRADUATION PLEDGE

A new freshman year pledge complements the Graduation Pledge. Contact Neil Wollman, Bentley College Alliance for Ethics and Social Responsibility, Waltham, MA 02452; nwollman@bentley.edu; 260-568-0116.

NEW PEACE AND JUSTICE STUDIES MAJOR

Regis U, Denver, CO. Contact Dr. Byron Plumley, PJS Dir., bplumley@regis.edu or (303)964-3660.

THE 11TH ANNUAL 2008 INTERNATIONAL PEACE PALS™ ART EXHIBITION & AWARDS

by admin

Deadline for entry is **June 30th**

Awards Gala and Event scheduled on September 20-21

To learn more visit: <http://www.wppspeacepals.org/>

LOOK WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO - HAPPENINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED

OMNI TABLE AT FARMER'S MARKET OPENING

There was a chill in the air at 7:00a.m. when the Fayetteville Farmer's Market opened on the Square. By 10a.m., the sun was warm, and the atmosphere was like a festival.

Omni will be there every Saturday morning to share our message of peace, justice and sustainability with the thousands of visitors that attend throughout the summer. If you've already signed up to work, we thank you. If you haven't, get in on the fun. You'll have a chance to chat with old friends, make new ones, sell bumper stickers, buttons and peace poles and distribute free educational literature, recruit new Omni members. You'll affirm with those who agree, and have an opportunity to have dialogue with those who don't. Farmer's market overflows with community, energy and joy. Spend some time there this summer by staffing the Omni Table.

If you'd like more information or to volunteer, contact Barbara Jaquish jaquish@uark.edu

(479) 582-5495

OMNI-UA PRESIDENT OLIVIA MEEKS CHOSEN AS TRUMAN SCHOLAR

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. - Olivia Meeks of Hot Springs is the latest University of Arkansas student chosen as a Truman Scholar by the members of the Truman Scholarship Foundation. Meeks is an Honors College Fellow, Economics Honors Scholar and a senior majoring in economics and political science in the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences.

"Olivia Meeks has more than earned this honor through her strong intellect, her hard work, her wide-ranging interests and her boundless energy," said Chancellor John A. White. "Her academic accomplishments are obvious, but she has also demonstrated a passion for applying what she's learning to her community and to the world. Olivia is an outstanding example of what an Arkansas student can accomplish with an education at the University of Arkansas."

Meeks is a graduate of Lake Hamilton High School, where she was a National Merit Scholar, a Governor's Scholar, and an Arkansas Times Academic All-Star. She is the current president of the student chapter of the Omni Center for Peace, Justice, and Ecology. She was the project leader on a community development program in Belize and has served as an intern for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She also worked as an intern in the special collections department of Mullins Library, archiving the papers of Rep. John Paul Hammerschmidt. In addition, she has her own radio show on KXUA, "Sugar and Spice," which features women in music.

"Saying that I am 'honored' to be selected as a Truman Scholar doesn't begin to describe the experience," Meeks said. "Throw in 'shocked,' 'humbled,' 'flattered,' 'motivated,' 'overjoyed,' 'anxious,' 'blessed,' and 'extremely grateful,' and then you may get a complete picture of what this means to me and to my future career in public service.

"The Truman Scholarship is more than a personal achievement. I never would have gotten this far without my amazing family, who are my greatest inspiration and biggest supporters. This is also a testament to the university

Honors College's dedication to student success and to the work of Suzanne McCray and all the faculty members who logged in the time to help me prepare."

About 75 Truman Scholars are selected each year, chosen from among hundreds of students on the basis of leadership potential, intellectual ability and likelihood of "making a difference."

"Very talented students from prestigious institutions across the country compete for this award," said Suzanne McCray, associate dean of the Honors College. "It is often impossible to say why students are not chosen, but it is easy to see why Olivia was. She has an appealing spark, tied to a will of iron. She is absolutely committed to making a difference for groups in our community who are struggling, and anyone who has worked with her knows that she will certainly do so."

Each student receives a \$30,000 scholarship to be used toward graduate study, as well as priority admission and supplemental financial aid at premier graduate institutions. They also get leadership training, career and graduate school counseling, and special internship opportunities within the federal government.

Meeks plans to pursue a master's degree in public policy at the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. Her long-term plans include working for the Department of Education and eventually returning to the state to work on educational issues at the state level.

The Truman Scholarship Foundation was established by Congress in 1975 as a federal memorial to President Harry S. Truman. The foundation has awarded more than 2,400 scholarships for college students to attend graduate school in preparation for careers in public service.

Submitted by Chris Delacruz

ARKANSAS HILLPOET MENDY KNOTT ATTENDS POETRY CONFERENCE

Arkansas Hillpoet Mendy Knott, Omni member and founder and facilitator of HOWL Women's Open Mic went to a poetry conference in Washington DC recently called "Split This Rock." She returns with inspiration bubbling over into a blog she's set up as www.arkansascribbler.blogspot.com. Check out her posts, and look the link at Omni's website, www.omnicenter.org. PEACE POETS ROCK!

Submitted by Gladys Tiffany

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Photos from our 5Years2Many demonstration on March 8 are ready for viewing at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/omnipix/sets/72157604081246219/>

FRESH MEDIA OFFERINGS TO CHECK OUT

WEBSITES FOR SOLAR, WIND, RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES IN ARKARKANSAS

www.arkansasrenewableenergy.org/

ArkansasRenewableEnergy.org is your Internet portal for information on solar, geothermal, and other renewable energy technologies in Arkansas! Explore these pages to find the latest renewable energy news, information on planning and designing your renewable energy systems, activities for the classroom, links to other useful sites, and more.

[Renewable Energy News](#)

Submitted by Chris Delacruz

LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Email your Public Service Announcements 2 weeks in advance to KUAF radio's Pete Hartman at phartma@uark.edu. PSAs should be about 15 seconds in length.

Submitted by Chris Delacruz

Link Carries Interactive Calendar of Events in Northwest Arkansas—

<http://northwestarkansasevents.blogspot.com/>

- Fayetteville Society of Friends (a.k.a. the Quaker...
- Northwest Arkansas Sustainability Center
- Northwest Arkansas Buddhists
- Omni Center for Peace, Justice and Ecology
- Interfaith and Astronomical
- Combined Northwest Arkansas Event Calendar

Original and gathered articles from Dick Bennett are at <http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/>

Mike Tramill has an email network (list) on political issues, including the latest developments on possible war or invasion with Iran. You may contact Mike at wheeler65@gmail.com if you want to be on the list.

Richard Drake continues his Fayetteville blog, street jazz, at <http://www.arktimes.com/blogs/streetjazz/>

Fayetteville Freethinkers website/forums can be found at <http://fayfreethinkers.com/forums/>

From Sidney Burris:

Modern & Contemporary Poetry: www.readwrite.typepad.com/poetry

Mindspace: www.readwrite.typepad.com/meditation

Tibetspace: www.readwrite.typepad.com/artibet

Institute website: www.artibet.com

OMNI/COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION (C.A.T.) CONNECTIONS www.catfayetteville.com

How You Can Use the Community Media Center:

- 1) Produce a TV Show! Let your creativity reign and watch your own show air on CAT television.
- 2) Take a class! Learn how to use a video camera, work the studio equipment and edit projects.
- 3) Be on TV! With your own short takes or star in someone else's show.
- 4) Save a special day in your life! Have the professional CAT crew shoot and edit your event.
- 5) Sponsor a show! Send in footage from other Community Access stations to air locally here in Fayetteville.
- 6) Get involved! Join the community access community. Use the electronic Community Message Board.

OMNI Month In Review:

Omni Month in Review will be live on a first showing, Just a reminder to watch our 3rd show, live tonight. The repeats will be thru the month on Sunday at 12:30. Big topics including Iraq war, presidential campaign, and Sociologist Lori Holyfield on the Single Parent Scholarship program. You don't want to miss this dynamic, informative panel discussion about world events. Moderated by Claire Detels,

Democracy NOW! Schedule:

Tuesdays,	3/25, 4/1	6:00p.m.	Democracy NOW!
Thursdays,	3/27, 4/3	6:00p.m.	Democracy NOW!
Friday	3/28, 3/4	6:00p.m.	Democracy NOW!
Sunday	3/30	6:00p.m.	Democracy NOW!

Free Speech TV (FSTV) sponsored by Omni - 3:00a.m. - 9:00a.m. - FSTV: the world's largest collection of alternative TV and numerous ideas for organizing, protesting, celebrating, researching, investigating, speaking, raising hell. www.freespeechtv.com

FSTV broadcast schedule:

3:00 am Daily (FSTV will not air during their fundraising drives)

Amy Goodman Online - You can listen/watch previous Democracy Now programs by internet streaming from Democracy Now website <http://democracynow.org> Previous programs (going back many years) are archived there. You can watch the current program (after they post it about noon) by going to <http://democracynow.org/streampage.pl>

Visit the Democracy Now Website to view:

Omni Book Samplers:

Book Samplers give a five minute book report or read a five minute excerpt from a book. Omni Book Samplers include Dick Bennett, Tom Kennedy, and Claire Detels.

Short Takes: Taping at C.A.T.

Taping Schedule:

Every Monday night, from 5:00p.m.-6:00p.m., C.A.T. will be doing Short Takes live. This will be a great opportunity for time sensitive material, live entertainment, or anything else that is expressive.

For the folks who don't want to go on camera live, you can still record your short take from 6:00p.m.-6:30p.m Mondays, and on Tuesdays from 12 noon - 1:30p.m. Both the live and recorded short takes will air the following week as usual. If anyone has any comments or questions, please feel free to contact C.A.T.

Viewing Times: 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m., 11:00p.m.

Omni News and Current Events featured on Short Takes:

Presented by Cliff Hughes, Dick Bennett

Other Viewing Opportunities:

Bill Moyers Journal on PBS, Fridays, 9:00p.m.

<http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/index-flash.html>

For More Information about the US/Iran status, you can visit

<http://www.buzzflash.com/search/?Query=iran> or BBC at


http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/default.stm

CASUALTIES IN IRAQ

The Human Cost of Occupation

Edited by Margaret Griffis :: [Contact](#)

American Military Casualties in Iraq

Date	Total	In Combat
		
American Deaths		
Since war began (3/19/03):	4014	3277
Since "Mission Accomplished" (5/1/03) (the list)	3875	3169
Since Capture of Saddam (12/13/03):	3553	2969
Since Handover (6/29/04):	3155	2644
Since Election (1/31/05):	2576	2382
American Wounded	Official	Estimated
Total Wounded:	29496	23000 - 100000

Latest Fatality Apr. 6, 2008

[Page last updated 04/6/08 3:35 pm EDT](#)

IRAQI CIVILIAN BODY COUNT

Civilians reported killed by military intervention in Iraq

MIN.	MAX.
82,682	90,207

Source of Iraqi Civilian Body Count: <http://www.iraqbodycount.net/>

*A body count of Iraqi civilian deaths was published in the medical journal *The Lancet* last year; its estimate was 600,000 (min) to 650,000 (max).

Cost of the War in Iraq \$509,000,000,000 and counting

Source of Cost of War: <http://nationalpriorities.org>

OMNI SEEKS A WORLD FREE OF WAR AND THE THREAT OF WAR, A SOCIETY WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL, A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERY PERSON'S POTENTIAL MAY BE FULFILLED, AN EARTH RESTORED. GRASSROOTS NONVIOLENCE, WORLD PEACE, HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL and ECONOMIC JUSTICE, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROTECTING SPECIES AND THE EARTH.

CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

- **Senator Blanche Lincoln:** Web Site (they have contact links): www.lincoln.senate.gov;
<http://www.lincoln.senate.gov/index.cfm>; <http://www.lincoln.senate.gov/webform.html>
 - Washington Office: 355 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-0404
Phone: (202) 224-4843 Fax: (202) 228-1371.
 - Fayetteville office: 251-1380
- **Senator Mark Pryor:** Web Site (see contact link): www.pryor.senate.gov ;
<http://pryor.senate.gov/contact/>
 - Washington Office: 217 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-0403
Phone: (202) 224-2353 Fax: (202) 228-0908
 - Main District Office: 500 Pres. Clinton Ave., Suite 401, Little Rock, AR 72201
Phone: (501) 324-6336 Fax: (501) 324-5320
- **Congressman John Boozman,** District 3, 12 counties from Benton to Washington
Lowell office: 479-725-0400. Fax: 479-725-0408, 213 W. Monroe, Suite K, 72745. Stacy McLure, Deputy Chief of Staff (STACEY.McCLURE@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV) Web site (with contact link): <http://www.boozman.house.gov/> Boozman's new office in Lowell is located at 213 West Monroe in Lowell between I 540 and Business 71. To reach that office take Exit 78 off I - 540 and go east. You will be on Hwy 264 which is also West Monroe. The office is in the Puppy Creek Plaza, past the McDonald's on the right. His suite is in the back of the complex to the left.
Ft. Smith office: 479-782-7787; 30 South 6th St. Rm 240, Ft. Smith 72901.
Harrison office: 870-741-6900; 402 N. Walnut, Suite 210, Harrison 72601.
DC address: 1708 Longworth House Office Bldng., Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-4301.
Leslie Parker, appointments secretary: 202-225-4301.