

July 27, 2008

OMNI CENTER NEWSLETTER



Editor: Melanie Dietzel, 479-442-8600

Please send upcoming events to this email address:

melaniedietzel@yahoo.com

There is no time left for anything but to make peacework a dimension of our every waking activity.
Boulding —Elise

BOOK FORUM, Building a Culture of Peace by We, the People

Sept. 12, Friday, 6:30 p.m. Books on Global Heating, Climate Disruption: HEAT, SIX DEGREES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON FREE AND NUCLEAR FREE. These books offer the reality needed to counter the greenwashing now pervading US corporate and government propaganda.

NEW FORMAT:

In the past we have focused on one book in the Book Forums. This Forum experiments with a discussion of several books, with at least one panelist familiar with at least one of the books. A format of a few basic questions we agree on in advance, with each person briefly telling what his/her book has to say on the topics, would seem to be appropriate, keeping focus on the books, providing the audience with reliable information from different perspectives. Then turning to audience questions/comments, for a maximum of an hour and a half.

PAT CARR WRITING WORKSHOPS

Author Pat Carr will be conducting writing workshops each of the five Sundays in August 2008, 1 - 4 p.m. in St. Paul's Episcopal Church Library, 224 N. East St. (corner of Dickson and East), Fayetteville (limited parking on East Street, lot in the back).

Pat Carr has written twelve books of fiction, including *The Women in the Mirror*, winner of the Iowa Short Fiction Award; *If We Must Die*, a Young Adult novel, is about the race riots in Tulsa in 1921, told from the point of view of a young teacher. TCU Press published her Young Adult novel about Pancho Villa, *Border Ransom*, in 2005. Recently, the University of Arkansas Press published a book of her short stories, *The Death of a Confederate Colonel*. Critics note it "triumphs in its portrayal of desperate circumstances."

Participants are asked to make a \$10 donation to St. Paul's for each session attended. For more information, please contact June B. Jefferson, jjefferson@arkansasusa.com.

WHAT'S GOING ON?—NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

NEW ITEMS IN GREEN

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOMB NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR ABOLITION IN BOSTON, MA, AUGUST 14-17, 2008

Submitted by davidswanson on Sun, 2008-07-13

Apply Now!

Join the Think Outside the Bomb network for four days of learning, sharing, and activism, August 14-17 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, MA. The conference will provide a backdrop for nuclear abolitionists, peace activists, ecologists, and other advocates of social justice and a livable planet to learn in-depth about the threat of nuclear weapons, the destruction caused by the nuclear fuel chain, and current political opportunities to move toward nuclear disarmament. To apply, visit <http://thinkoutsidethebomb.org>

Think Outside the Bomb is unique: it is the only conference of it's kind that is fully organized and led by youth (roughly defined as under-29), and does more than educate students and young people on the issues surrounding nuclear weapons, waste, and power -- it places us in the forefront of the movement, making change happen! Like previous conferences, Think Outside the Bomb will provide food and transportation to and from the conference for all participants!

UNION FOR RADICAL POLITICAL ECONOMICS SUMMER CONFERENCE

"Poverty and Unemployment: The Permanent Violence of Capitalism," August 15 -18, Camp Deer Run, Pine Bush, New York. www.urpe.org

SEPTEMBER 21 UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

The IDP provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations, and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. Annual celebrations of Peace Day highlight the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010. For ideas and links on how you can join in the Peace Day campaign go to: www.InternationalDayOfPeace.org, www.CultureOfPeace.org, www.un.org/events/peaceday Bring your ideas to our committee. Contact Dick 442-4500.

RECRUITER ABUSE HELP HOTLINE

The National Youth and Militarism Recruiter Abuse Hotline: 1-877-688-6881. Started by the AFSC.

RESISTING MILITARIZING OF OUR SCHOOLS

"DMZ: A Guide to Taking Your School Back from the Military." To order: www.warresisters.org or email wrl@warresisters.org, or www.warresisters.org/dmz

RAPID RESPONSE WRITERS

RRW met at noon July 26 for lunch at Ozark Mt. Smokehouse on Dickson to congratulate our elected officials: State Representative Lindsley Smith, Mayor John Gray, and Barbara Fitzpatrick (running unopposed for Justice of the Peace). Thirteen people filled the long table: Larry Woodall (coordinator), Judith Pepper, Coralie Koonce, Carl Barnwell, George Patterson, Dave Hunter, Jon Zimmer, John Gray, Henry Griffith, Dick Bennett, Barbara Fitzpatrick, Lindsley and Steve Smith. Lioneld Jordan dropped by.

Lindsley described the beginning of her first term learning legislative proposals and the established "old boy" order. She praised the support RRW letter writers gave and give to progressive ideas and stressed the importance of perseverance.

John Gray described his accidental entrance into official politics after being challenged to turn talk into action, and as with Lindsley confronted by the local old boy establishment. He ran on a main issue: planning the future of Greenland to control mindless growth. With Lindsley he emphasized sticking to your principles.

Barbara is another accidental politician now fully engaged, attending Quorum Court meetings months before her January inauguration as JP. Among her special interests is watershed protection against sprawl. A very positive luncheon!

Submitted by Dick Bennett

STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN: MOVIES AND DVDS

DOCUMENTARY FILMS ABOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS

"Conviction," a 48 min. dvd doc. about three Dominican nuns sentenced to Federal Prison for their nonviolent protest at a Minuteman III missile site in Colorado. The film raises the role of International Law in US courts.

"Walking for Peace," a 29-min. film on the journey of a group of people who walked 300 miles from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation to Bangor Submarine Base to call for the abolition of nuclear weapons."

Submitted by Dick Bennett jbennet@uark.edu

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.arktunes.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

MNI/COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION (C.A.T.) CONNECTIONS

www.catfayetteville.com

OMNI Month In Review:

Omni Month in Review with Moderator Claire Detels can be watched live on Wednesday, August 27; the repeats will be thru the month on Sunday at 12:30. Repeats of July's OMIR can be viewed on Sundays, August 3, August 10.

Democracy NOW! Schedule:

Tuesdays,	7/29, 8/5	6:00p.m.	Democracy NOW!
Thursdays	7/30, 8/7	6:00p.m.	Democracy NOW!
Friday	8/1, 8/8	6:00p.m.	Democracy NOW!
Sunday	8/3, 8/10	6:00p.m.	Democracy NOW!

Free Speech TV (FSTV) sponsored by Omni - 3:00a.m. - 9:00a.m. - FSTV continues its cutting edge challenges, pushing us to think. *Ecosocialism or Barbarism* by Joel Kovel (2007), a Marxist analysis of capitalism, was aired June 25. Accumulation, competition, creation of surplus value, increasing workers' productivity, commodifying everything, overproduction, perpetual expansion of consumption by advertising

equals an inherently unsustainable system. www.freespeechtv.com Omni Center is pleased to provide FSTV to our local Community Access Television

FSTV broadcast schedule:

3:00 am Daily

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. If you like to read and would like to share and encourage others to read books that you find informative and interesting, please volunteer to be a Book Sampler. Contact: Dick Bennett jbennet@uark.edu

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):	4124	3360
Since "Mission Accomplished" (5/1/03) (the list)	3985	3252
Since Capture of Saddam (12/13/03):	3663	3054
Since Handover (6/29/04):	3265	2727
Since Election (1/31/05):	2687	2464

American Wounded

Official

Estimated

Total Wounded:

30435

23000 - 100000

Latest Fatality July 15, 2008

Page last updated 07/17/08 6:48 pm EDT

IRAQI CIVILIAN BODY COUNT

Civilians reported killed by military intervention in Iraq

MIN.

MAX.

86,312

—

94,174

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* in 2006; its estimate at that time was 600,000 (min) to 650,000 (max). Some sources estimate the death toll of civilian deaths today is over 1,000,000

Cost of the War in Iraq

\$540,000,000,000 and counting

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

About 35 million people in the US go hungry each year. The US Senate approved a war funding bill (in addition to the Pentagon funds) of about \$260 billion. It would cost about \$12 billion annual to eliminate hunger until 2030.

From WorldwideWAMM (July/Aug. 2008)

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/>

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 Bldg., Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-4301. Leslie Parker, appointments secretary: 202-225-4301.

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.

H.J. Res. 362

By Al Vick

In recent days, Iran conducted two missile tests in response to both the alleged dry run by the Israeli air force last month for a potential strike against that country's uranium-enrichment plants, and increasingly bellicose rhetoric and war threats coming from the Bush Administration and some members of Congress. Among the various missiles tested by the Iranians was the Shahab-3, a somewhat inaccurate medium-range weapon, which carries a one-ton warhead. The Shahab-3 is capable of traveling some 1,200 miles and therefore, is able to inflict serious damage upon Israel, the Green Zone and other American bases in Iraq, other

gulf states with their oil processing facilities, and U.S. Naval targets in the Persian Gulf.

While the Iranian leadership made it clear that their weapon systems would only be unleashed in the event of a U.S./Israeli attack upon their country, high-ranking officials in the U.S. Government immediately cited the missile tests as evidence of the grave threat posed by Iran; this, a country that has not attacked any of its neighbors or any sovereign state in living memory.

Recently, the *New Yorker* published an article by Seymour Hersh entitled *Preparing the Battlefield: The Bush Administration Steps Up Its Secret Moves Against Iran*. The article points out that late last year congressional leaders approved President Bush's request for \$400 million in order to fund stepped-up covert military operations in Iran; the request and approval was conducted in secret. It should be clear to all that in reality, it is the United States, along with its allies within the Israeli government, that currently pose the gravest threat in the Middle East and in particular, to Iran.

While Mr. Hersh's revealing article received some media attention, particularly on NPR and alternative news venues such as *Democracy Now*, there is still more movement afoot that potentially can amount to a virtual declaration of war against the Persians. On May 22 of this year, a resolution entitled H.J. Res. 162 was introduced in the House of Representatives. It is expected that the resolution will find easy passage in both the House and the Senate. It is titled in the following way:

"Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the threat posed to international peace, stability in the Middle East, and the vital national security interests of the United States by Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons and regional hegemony, and for other purposes."

The fact that our own National Intelligence Estimate last year reported that Iran had ceased pursuing its nuclear ambitions some five years ago, and the fact that the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency (I.A.E.A.) has conducted at least nine surprise inspections inside of Iran without finding any evidence of a nuclear-weapons program doesn't seem to matter to either the Bush Administration or even more sadly, to the U.S. Congress. Further, the fact that Iran is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and as such has a perfect right to enrich uranium for peaceful purposes, seems to be of little consequence to the U.S. Government.

As a result, the Congress, through this resolution, will soon be considering stringent and oppressive measures against the Persian government. Among the conditions H.J. Res. 162 would impose upon Iran includes a provision that "demands that the President initiate an international effort to immediately and dramatically increase the economic, political, and diplomatic pressure on Iran to verifiably suspend its nuclear enrichment activities by, inter alia, prohibiting the export to Iran of all refined petroleum products; imposing stringent inspection requirements on all persons, vehicles, ships, planes, trains, and cargo entering or departing Iran; and prohibiting the international movement of all Iranian officials not involved in negotiating the suspension of Iran's nuclear program..."

Notice that this resolution demands that the President of the United States initiate an international effort that would restrict the movement of all persons, vehicles, ships, plans trains, cargo, and the "prohibiting of the international movement of all Iranian officials not

involved in negotiating the suspension of Iran's nuclear program." A good question to ask oneself at this point might concern what gives the United States, clearly an aggressive force in the Middle East, the right make such unrealistic and likely, unacceptable demands upon another sovereign state. Apparently, our so-called representatives in Congress have failed to ask themselves such reasonable questions. Other provisions within this congressional resolution include tougher sanctions upon some Iranian and international banks as well as some oil and other energy companies.

The introduction of H.J. Res. 162 into the House of Representatives should make clear to any thinking person that the Bush Administration and most of our representatives in Congress, are playing with fire. It would appear that by imposing a " long train of abuses," as this country's founders once referred to actions imposed upon us, they will force Iran into a situation where it must fight back. At that point, the Bush/Cheney regime will have achieved its goal of inflaming the entire Middle East in deadly conflict with deadly results of a magnitude that no one can predict. So far, only Representative Ron Paul has been noted for having spoken out against this dangerous resolution, which is slated to go before the House some time after July 4.

Once again, it is time for those who believe in peace to speak out against reckless policies, which instead of solving problems, only serve to create hell on Earth.

For the full text of H.J. Res. 162, go to:

<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article20227.htm>