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## Big Changes for the OMNI Center!

### OMNI'S New Home

This new adaptation of the OMNI Newsletter is just one symbol of many changes happening at the OMNI Center.

Probably the biggest change for OMNI is purchasing a building that we hope to move into in mid-August.

As a result of a generous gift from Dick Bennett and his family, OMNI had money to buy a building that we feel can serve us as a center for peace, justice and environmental programs for quite awhile.

We hope OMNI members and friends will be excited about this move. United Campus Ministries has been a good

home, and a lovely meeting place for nearly 9 years. All of us love that beautiful building, and are deeply grateful for the hospitality shown to us by the UCM Board and Staff. But it is time for us to move on, and take a more public role in developing the culture of peace. We hope more space and a relatively visible building will help us do that. It's also handicapped accessible. That's a big plus.

We're creating a public face for peace, justice and the environment at a time when it has become conceivable to think action is possible on many of our most important issues.



### A New Home for OMNI Center— 3274 Lee Street

*Take College Ave to Harold (at Flying Burrito), one block to Lee, turn left on Lee one block to Bertha. The new OMNI Center is at the corner of Lee and Bertha.*

### OMNI's AmeriCorps\*VISTAs

In addition to new space, new people will be appearing at the OMNI office. With help from VISTA and President Obama's stimulus programs, we've hired three VISTA volunteers. In the next issue of this newsletter we'll ask them to talk about themselves. For now though, look for Amanda and Ryan Bancroft, a husband and wife team with a passion for positive change, and Jonathan Gibbs, a former OMNI UA officer and determined young activist. All three recently graduated from grassroots organizer training hosted by the Sierra Club, and are anxious to put new skills to work in the field. We are honored to have the use of these skills, and the talented young people willing to share them.

## New Faces Stepping Up to Help OMNI

### New Editor for Newsletter!

For the past 3 years former OMNI co-president Melanie Dietzel has been the editor of the bi-weekly Newsletter that appears in your inbox. A few weeks ago her computer died, and that's why the newsletter faded away. Once it got replaced, Melanie decided to turn the project over to someone new.

So OMNI is pleased to announce that Amanda Bancroft is positively excited to become the next editor. This means that changes will begin to happen that we hope will excite you too.

*"New Editor" Continued on Page 2...*

### New Month-in-Review Host!

OMNI Month In Review will appear on Community Access Television (CAT), channel 18 on August 2nd at 1:00pm. It is the monthly talk show conceived and developed by OMNI member Claire Detels. Every month she has presented programming on topics of local and national interest that range from global war to neighborhood pests. She has worked hard to attract speaker

*"New Host" Continued on Page 2...*

“New Editor” Continued from Page 1...

Amanda is a young woman you will hear from often in the next year. She is one of the three VISTA volunteers that are working with OMNI to improve our operations. You’ll be introduced to all three in the near future.

When you see that newsletter appear, remember that there are dedicated OMNI volunteers at the other end of the cyber-wave sending it to you. Thank you Melanie for 3 years of dedicated service. And thank you Amanda, for the enthusiasm you bring us as you take over the task. You’re both wonderful OMNI folks.



THANK YOU Melanie!

THANK YOU Claire!

“New Host” Continued from Page 1...

panels of knowledgeable local experts to explore the issues in ways that have attracted the attention of many people. She has performed with a grace and verve that brought out things in her panelists that they sometimes didn’t know they had. These programs have made OMNI look very professional.

We were very sad when Claire decided she needed to release the show and do other things. But Claire realizes that her show fills an important need in the Fayetteville community. Public dialogue on important topics is critically important to a well-functioning democracy, and this program adds an excellent dimension to community discussion.

So she did some deep soul-searching and major recruiting, and has convinced OMNI steering committee member Abel Tomlinson to replace her at the helm of OMIR as chief producer. Abel is a dynamic young man with many talents. He would like to use OMNI Month In Review to continue the direction Claire has established, and try a few new things as well. OMNI folks will miss Claire’s presence on OMNI Month In Review. Thank you Claire, you’re a remarkable woman and OMNI is really fortunate you got this underway. And thank you Abel, for taking on a project that has this kind of significance for your community. You’re both the kind of OMNI person that makes Fayetteville the place it is, and we’re proud of you. Look for an article on Abel in the next OMNI Newsletter!

## Hiroshima Nagasaki Commemoration

### War Is Not the Answer

Saturday, August 9th – 6:00 pm

Procession begins at Arkansas Ave and Lafayette, 6:00 pm

Parade Marshall Abel Tomlinson

This event is a reminder of the horrors of war and the sweetness of life. It begins with the annual procession from Arkansas Avenue across campus. Parade Marshall Abel Tomlinson points out that the route is different this year. Instead of concluding at the Fulbright Peace Fountain, it passes the fountain, which is the site of the *Eyes Wide Open* Exhibit.

*Eyes Wide Open* is also called “The Boots Project”. It’s made up of combat boots, one pair for each Arkansas soldier that died in the Iraq or Afghani wars.

There is also a collection of civilian shoes that represent the “collateral damage” of these wars. No one really knows how many there are.

The Boots Project is a respectful demonstration of the sacrifices made by Arkansas’ soldiers and their families; and a sobering reminder of the real cost of war.

The program will be held at United Campus Ministries (corner of Maple and Storer Streets) it will include music and writings of local artists, and the reading of names of people

killed in wars. Speaker is Dr. Dick Bennett, who will talk about “The Epidemic of Violence: Nuclear Weapons.” This issue is one Dick has struggled with for years.

Even in the face of global violence, life is sweet, and worth the struggle to make it better. Join us for the simple procession across campus that represents the process; and a program that highlights the state

we find ourselves in today. Afterward there’s a summer ice cream social to remind us of the “sweet” part of life.

As the event concludes participants are encouraged to explore the *Eyes Wide Open* Exhibit thoroughly. This *Eyes Wide Open* is a one-day-only event. It will be in place from about 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm on August 9. This is the Arkansas module of the project. Exhibits like it are held in every state. Afghanistan has now become the main theatre of violence, and unless our priorities can shift it will not be the end of war. The Boots Project will expand, and sorrow will continue. The shift is up to us. Please join us to explore ways to do that.



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# Human Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery in the United States and Around the World

*A Free Conference Hosted by the University of Arkansas and Let's Bring Them Home*

*WHEN: September 4, 2009; 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.*

*WHERE: Court Room; University of Arkansas School of Law*

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On September 4, 2009 we will be hosting a free educational conference to help raise awareness about the problem of human trafficking. Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery in which people are coerced into working in factories, agriculture, prostitution etc. According to the United Nations, 2.5 million people are victims of human trafficking around the world and the Federal Government estimates that close to 20,000 people are victims of human trafficking in the United States.

Solving the problem of human trafficking requires increasing knowledge and awareness among law enforcement, attorneys, the news media, and members of the general public. Please join us for this free public event so you can learn more about the problem of human trafficking and how it affects people around the world. Speakers at the conference will include:

- **Dr. Mary Crawford (University of Connecticut):** Mary Crawford is Professor of Psychology and former director of the Women's Studies Program at the University of Connecticut. As a Fulbright Senior Scholar in 2004-05, she lived and worked in Kathmandu, Nepal, where she investigated the trafficking of young girls into forced prostitution. Her forthcoming book *Sex trafficking in South Asia: Telling Maya's Story* is a memoir about the experience of doing research with women in Nepal and a critical analysis of the social representation of sex trafficking in South Asia.
- **Special Agent Dixon A. Land (Federal Bureau of Investigation):** Special Agent Land has been an agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation for 20 years. He is currently the coordinator of the F.B.I.'s civil rights division for Arkansas. Special Agent Land will be speaking about law enforcement responses to human trafficking.
- **Dr. Kim McCabe (Lynchburg College):** Kimberly A. McCabe, Ph.D. is a Professor of Criminology and Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at Lynchburg College. Dr. McCabe's research interests include police policy, victimization, and human trafficking. Accomplished through her research are over 30 publications including three books. She has secured approximately \$700,000 in funding over the last decade to explore and evaluate various social issues and she has served on many advisory boards. In addition, she guest lectures to many public and private organizations on the topics of victimization and criminal justice procedures.
- **Melissa Snow (Shared Hope International):** Melissa Snow is Program Director for Shared Hope International. She is a recognized expert in the field of sex trafficking.

**Please register in advance for the conference so we can have an idea of who is going to attend. The first 100 people who pre-register will be provided a free lunch. Register online at <http://comp.uark.edu/~lampinen/HTConference.htm>**

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*The conference is sponsored by Let's Bring Them Home and the Department of Psychology and the School of Law at the University of Arkansas.*

The [League of Women Voters of Washington County](#) and [Nightbird Books](#) invite you to a special screening of the film, "A Sense of Wonder," a new documentary about the life of Rachel Carson.



The [League of Women Voters of Washington County](#) and [Nightbird Books](#) invite you to a special screening of the film, "A Sense of Wonder," a new documentary about the life of Rachel Carson

Admission is **FREE**, but seating is limited. Advance tickets may be reserved, but must be picked up by **August 5** at Nightbird Books, 205 W. Dickson Street. Call Nightbird Books at 479-443-2080 or stop by for ticket availability.

## FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION INTERNATIONAL PFEFFER PEACE PRIZE 2009

was awarded to La'Onf. La'Onf, which means "no violence" in Arabic, is a network of more than 100 Iraqi NGOs--human rights, women, unions--committed to work together for nonviolence. Source: \*Witness, A Newsletter of F.O.R. \*(2009).

### **Introducing the First Searchable Humane Food Database**

World Society for the Protection of Animals' online database of animal-friendly food products is ready for use!

Visit [FindHumaneFood.org](http://FindHumaneFood.org) to find out more about what products are available at your local grocery stores.

WAND (Women's Action for New Directions) &  
ACPJ (Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice)

invite you to

REMEMBER HIROSHIMA and NAGASAKI

**Thursday, August 6, 2009**

**7:00 - 7:30 pm**

### **The Promenade on Kavanaugh**

Readings, music and prayer to remember those who died - and to support President Obama in his efforts to abolish all nuclear weapons from the earth!

The latest newsletter of the Arkansas Civil Liberties Union contained a full page on ACT 1, a half page on students' rights in Arkansas, another article on Arkansas prisons, AND GOOD NEWS! Northwest Arkansas WILL HAVE AN ACLU ORGANIZER SOON.

### **OMNI VEGETARIAN POTLUCK**

Wednesday, August 12th 6:00—8:30pm \* United Campus Ministries \* All are welcome!

This is a good way to taste test vegetarian & vegan foods!

You don't have to be a vegetarian to attend.

"My country, right or wrong; if right, to be kept right; if wrong, to be set right."

--Senator Carl Schurz, February 29. 1872