



Have An Omni Holiday!



This holiday season, make a difference by purchasing a gift from OMNI Center:

Own a piece of OMNI's wall! Buy a youth-made Peace Sign for \$5.00

Plant a Peace Pole in the yard of someone you love! Donation requested.

Buy fair trade chocolate, coffee, cocoa, cranberries or nuts to support OMNI's teens.

Get an OMNI ball cap for just \$10.00!

Pick up your bumper sticker or button at OMNI Center's gift shop.

Attend the Alternative Gift Market from 8:00AM—2:00PM Sunday December 6th at St. Paul's.

Claire Detel's Benefit Concert for OMNI a Huge Success!

A unique, delicious evening of music, food, drink, and fellowship awaited guests as they entered the home of Adella and Gary Gray on October 30, 2009. Twenty-five people packed the Grays' living room and kitchen. Several members of UUFF were present (Claire is their pianist). Special thanks for Nancy Goliff's cheesecake, Gwen and Bill Millager's trays of fruit (they drove from Pea Ridge), Dick's chocolate cake, Grays for coffee, Dick for flowers, and OMNI for wine. Thank you! The Grays' hospitality, their intimate, welcoming home, the splendid music and Claire's masterful execution, created the chemistry for enjoyable conversation that extended long after the concert. Claire played compositions by African-American composers from Handy to Ellington, especially featuring the Arkansas composers Florence Price and William Grant Still, creating an experience alive with discovery and pleasure. And the event added \$366 for OMNI's new home. One couple gave \$100. We have incurred expenses in renovating our new building for access, opening up meeting space, a new floor, and we must have a new roof. So thank you all for helping with these expenses and sharing the evening's enjoyment.—Dick Bennett

Who Pulls OMNI's Sleigh?

Executive Committee Members: Dick Bennett (Founder) Gladys Tiffany (President) Kelly Mulhollan (Vice President) Karen Takemoto (Treasurer) Nancy Goliff (Secretary)

Steering Committee Members: Dick Bennett, Gladys Tiffany, Richard Tiffany, Kelly Mulhollan, Karen Takemoto, Nancy Goliff, Steven Scattebo, Abel Tomlinson

Archives – Karen Idlet

Bennett House Trustee Team – Nancy Goliff, Richard Tiffany, Bill Goliff, Cliff Hughes, Kelly Mulhollan, Donna Stjerna

Book Forums Team Leader – Dick Bennett

Climate Change Task Force Team Leader – Joanna Pollack

Earth Scouts – Sara & Casey Milford

Hiroshima Nagasaki Day Team – (needs coordinator)

HOWL! (Her Words Outloud) – Mendy Knott, Leigh Wilkerson

Hundred-Year-Plan group – Richard Tiffany

INMOTION OMNI newsletter – Amanda Bancroft

Membership Team – Ryan Bancroft, Gladys Tiffany, Terry Michaels

OMNI Vision – Abel Tomlinson

OMNI at NWACC – Dr. Edrene McKay faculty sponsor

OMNI UA – Dr. Karen Madison faculty sponsor

OMNI Scholars Program Team – Dr. Dick Bennett, Steven Skattebo, Julie Thacker

Open Mic for Peace – Kelly Mulhollan, Donna Stjerna

Peace Builders Team – Terry Michaels, Fernando Garcia, Amanda Bancroft, Ryan Bancroft, Jonathan Gibbs, Gladys Tiffany

Peace & Justice Heroes Awards – 09 Team Leader Karen Idlet

Peace Poles Project – Steven Skattebo

Peacewriting Awards – Dick Bennett

Rapid Response Writers – Larry Woodall

Springfest – 09 Team Leader Laura Kelly

Teen Leadership Corps – Amanda Bancroft

UA Internships Program – 09 Geoff Oelsner, 10 Leslie Oelsner

Veggie Potluck – Dan Dean

Video Underground – 09 Jonathan Gibbs

World Peace Wetland Prairie – Steven Skattebo



First Nick Fest 2009 at New OMNI Home!



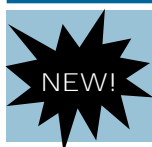
Have you been in town long enough to remember Nick Masullo singing “Support the troops... bring ‘em home...” at the 2nd M-11 March against the Iraq war? Nick passed away last year after enduring a long bout of MS. But his wife Ginny, and the friends who supported him through the hard final years, still remember.

Even when Nick could no longer play or sing, he continued to write amazing lyrics, which he would present to particular musician friends that he’d selected to add the melodies. Each song that came out of that deeply emotional time has a story that pulls out memories and tears from the person who got to be the co-creator of Nick’s songs. Sure hope you get to hear some of those stories one day. They’re stories of love in the face of the deepest trouble, even when they’re about as funny as you can imagine.

Well, on November 24 Kelly and Donna of Still on the Hill (who are some of those lucky co-creators) hosted a “Nickfest” at the OMNI building. It’s the first of a new tradition. They hope it can be an annual event, like many they host that showcase the fine musicians Fayetteville has, and raises money for a good cause.

This year the money raised went to a new roof for OMNI’s new building. The roof is in need of repair, and we’d love to replace it with a new, energy-efficient kind of roof. OMNI’s determined to be as sustainable as we possibly can in this new home, but we’re learning just how difficult that can be. The new ‘air-flow metal’ variety costs about twice as much as a regular shingle roof. This year’s Nickfest raised \$860. toward it, and this is a great beginning to the fundraising process. Thank you, all you Nick Friends... You’re just amazing!

If you remember Nick, your donation would also be appreciated. Write “in memory of Nick” on your check and we’ll add your name to a list of the good people who donated at the very first annual Nickfest. Next year you’ll want to come too. Whew. Not to be missed if at all possible. —Gladys Tiffany



Peace Leadership Column:

What does it mean to lead a culture of peace?

Find out in INMOtion’s monthly interviews with OMNI leaders!

Interview with Gladys Tiffany, OMNI President

Q: What do you believe is the role of a leader?

One important part of a leader’s job is to find fun things for other people to do. The work has to be fun at least part of the time. In a group like OMNI the leaders take our mission very seriously. “Educating and empowering for a world of nonviolence, sustainability and justice.” It’s how we see the culture of peace. Even though our country seems so far away from that, the vision keeps us going. The leaders have to stay focused on the vision.

Q: What are your thoughts on the way many committees function in OMNI?

The committees and teams are the tactics to move toward the vision. Some of our teams are functioning so beautifully. The book forums come together smoothly; the Peace Heroes Banquet has a well-oiled team behind it; the Climate Change Task Force is taking shape; I’m really pleased with how the Peace Builders Forums are developing; the “Teen Leadership Corps” is very exciting; those are a few. But there’s more to the goal than what we’re doing right now.

One powerful thing I hope we can do this year is to encourage all OMNI members and friends to find a team they can join. We need opportunities for people who catch a glimpse of the possibilities of the culture of peace to find a place where they can learn and serve. We’re all working toward that vision to the best of our ability, and places where people can find their niche in the movement are needed now. We need that new energy and wisdom.



“There needs to be a place to develop peace leaders, to enable ourselves to grow the Gandhi within. I hope every OMNI member and friend would consider themselves a leader like that..”

OMNI CENTER

For Peace, Justice & Ecology

MISSION STATEMENT

OMNI Center for Peace, Justice, and Ecology educates and empowers people to actively build a non-violent, sustainable, and just world.

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NEW! Peace Leadership Column

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Courage to Resist

Shut Down School of the Americas!

"Prosperity Without Growth"

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Smorgasbord!

The OMNI Center Calendar is now online!

The Last Page Tells You How to View the Calendar.

PEACE INMOtion

Feature Article: Peace on Earth Begins with the Children

“Beginning with the Children: To Teach Peace” by Eleanor J. Bader , *On the Issues* magazine

It is the third week of classes at P.S. 130, The Parkside School in Brooklyn, New York. A group of fourth graders sits on the floor, watching five others — a mix of nine and 10-year-olds from other classes in the school — take seats in front of the room.

Emma Gonzalez, a group facilitator from The Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility, gets the ball rolling by introducing the theme, respect for difference. “We are all different in many ways but we need to live together respectfully,” she begins.

A quick survey of where the students or their parents are from hammers the point: Albania, Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Poland, Puerto Rico, Trinidad. “This diversity makes the world very rich,” Gonzalez continues. “Imagine a world where we were all the same. That would be boring.”

Heads nod as Gonzalez tells the assembled students that the children in front of them are going to describe how they’ve been hurt by racial or religious prejudice.

Ibrahim begins. “I was in Burger King and this lady came up to my sister and asked where we were from. She told her Egypt and the lady said, ‘You should tell your parents to convert to Catholic.’ That made me mad.”



Another boy describes being made fun of for speaking Arabic. Then Ivette takes a deep breath and shakily tells the group about an incident in the lunchroom. “This boy came up to me and said, ‘People from Jamaica are stupid. I hate your culture and I hate you.’”

Gonzalez jumps in. “He didn’t even know you, did he? It’s sometimes hard to talk about things that make us sad or angry. But see, you are not alone. That’s why we all need to tell our stories.”

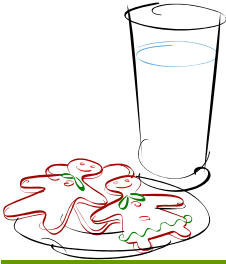
“Once the children learn that the people around them won’t laugh or make fun of them, it’s healing for them to tell their stories,” Gonzalez says. “They discover that they don’t have to hide or be silent. They can stand up for themselves and be assertive. They also learn to be good listeners as the storytelling catches fire. From time to time someone will cry, but it ends the isolation to hear that other people have been called names, making it easier to talk about ways to stop these comments and behaviors.”

The Morningside Center was founded in 1982 by teachers concerned about the dangers of nuclear war. It has since evolved into a nationally recognized champion of social and emotional learning, known as SEL, bringing programs to approximately 80 New York City public schools a year.

“When we started developing in the 1980’s,” Tom Roderick adds, “we came upon a quote from Mahatma Gandhi: ‘If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children.’ That was it. Begin with the children. Morningside Center’s work developed from there.”

To Read the Complete Article, Go To: www.ontheissuesmagazine.com/2009fall/2009fall_bader.php

JUSTICE INMOtion



NOVEMBER 20-22, FORT BENNING, GEORGIA
SHUT DOWN THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS!

The vigil at the gates of Fort Benning, to advocate justice. www.soaw.org

Campaign wins Army objector discharge!

By *Courage to Resist* www.couragetoresist.org

November 10, 2009

In August, we launched a campaign to “Free Army conscientious objector Dustin Stevens and the end illegal pre-trial punishment of the Fort Bragg 50!” **With your help, we did just that!**

Dustin is certain that he would still be facing over a year in the stockade if it were not for your support. It is not everyday that we win an outright victory for GI resisters.

Dustin Stevens was one of about 50 soldiers held at the 82nd Holdover Unit awaiting likely AWOL and desertion charges. They lived in a legal limbo of poor living conditions, verbal abuse, and arbitrary punishments while waiting for up to a year to be actually charged and court martialed. These soldiers were subjected to many months of unjust and illegal punishment prior to their day in court.

Shortly after Dustin first contacted us, staff organizer Sarah Lazare traveled across the country and not only met with Dustin and other members of his unit, she also recorded an interview with their commanding officer! After her [first article](#) was published, living conditions improved. After her [second article](#), co-authored with Dahr Jamail, “Echo Platoon” was disbanded. And after we mailed hundreds of [petitions to military authorities](#) on behalf of supporters like yourself, Dustin’s court martial for desertion was canceled. He was discharged last week. Dustin intends to continue fighting for GI resisters:



I was let out because I have a big mouth and a lot of people backing me up. The guys and girls that stay quiet are still getting screwed. How do we fix this, how do we help these people? Fort Bragg is just one problem, there are many more. I am eternally grateful for the help that I received from Courage to Resist and others like them. But I am far from finished. My fight is for every single person that has the right to choose. I will fight for the soldiers with a conscience. I will not stop my fight, ever.

Concerned about the unsustainability of modern society's pro-growth mantra?
Read "Prosperity without Growth? The Transition to a Sustainable Economy,"
by Tim Jackson, published this year by the UK Sustainable Development Commission.
You can download a free copy of the book at
http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/file_download.php?target=/publications/downloads/prosperity_without_growth_report.pdf.

-- Art Hobson





ECOLOGY INMOTION

The British Science Museum has released an interactive map of climate change effects.

See: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/interactive/2009/oct/22/climate-change-carbon-emissions>.

Vegetarian Potlucks! Sample a Variety of Earth-Friendly Dishes

The November OMNI Vegetarian Potluck featured fine folks, good conversation, and fantastic victuals including a decadent vegan chocolate/raspberry cake brought by Heather Day. Heather will soon open a vegetarian restaurant in Fort Smith, and if the cake is any indication of the quality of the menu, vegetarians from all over NWA will definitely make the pilgrimage. Our potlucks have been slightly smaller than usual lately, perhaps because of University schedules or because folks aren't used to coming out to OMNI's new home yet. If either of these factors applied to you this time, you should come on out to the next OMNI Vegetarian potluck on

Wednesday, December 9th at 6PM.

Reassessing our dietary choices can bring Peace, Justice, and Ecology to the forefront of our consciousness. You needn't be vegetarian to attend, just open-minded and willing to try new things. For more information, contact Dan Dean at exequals@hotmail.com

VEGETARIAN POTLUCK

every 2nd Wednesday @ 6:00PM
(October 14th, November 11th, December 9th)



OMNI Vegetarian Potluck attendees enjoyed a stunningly delicious array of earth-friendly dishes. The intelligent reader will note that many satisfied folks were not vegetarian, and some were vegan, and many were hybrid varieties. :)



Community Garden Project

Help grow organic veggies for your family, the homeless & local food banks! For more information, see: www.meetup.com/SAF-Community-Garden-Project — Barbara Parker



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Smorgasbord!



New Fulbright Digital Library

A new digital library collection at the University of Arkansas Libraries titled “A Calm Voice in a Strident World: Senator J.W. Fulbright Speaks” showcases 50 speeches delivered by Sen. James William Fulbright (1905–1995). Fulbright’s name is perhaps best known for the educational exchange program he created in the aftermath of World War II. In 1946 he sponsored legislation creating the Fulbright Exchange Program, intended to help people appreciate other nations and cultures. The Fulbright program currently operates in more than 155 countries and has provided more than 285,000 participants the opportunity to study, teach, conduct research and exchange ideas with people in other countries. Through a program of grants to students, scholars, educators and professionals, it is designed to increase international understanding, in order to avoid war and human rights violations.

[Special Collections Department Digital Collections] –
<http://scipio.uark.edu/>
[Special Collections Department]—
<http://libinfo.uark.edu/SpecialCollections/default.asp>

Submitted By:
Diane F. Worrell
Special Projects Librarian
Special Collections Department



(Left to right) Senator J. William Fulbright with Senator Hubert Humphrey, United Nations Secretary General U. Thant, and Soviet Premier Nikita Krushchev, after the signing of the Limited Test Ban Treaty, August 5, 1963, Moscow



Become a **Certified Arkansas Master Naturalist** through the AR Master Naturalist Chapter at Cossatot State Park! I highly encourage you to attend these weekend classes, and learn for yourself about Arkansas' natural environment. For more info, visit:

<http://home.arkansasmasternaturalists.org/>

OR, call me if you are curious: 479 225 8396, cell.

Maggie Bailey

Mitchell Gold Author Talk and Book Signing

Saturday, December 12, 11 am, Walker Community Room in the Fayetteville Public Library: Mitchell Gold will speak about his book *Crisis: 40 stories revealing the personal, social, and religious pain and trauma of growing up gay in America*, and about an organization he founded, Faith in America, Inc., whose mission is the emancipation of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people from bigotry. Gold is chairman of Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, a furniture company focused on “making the world a more comfortable place.” The event is free and open to the public. Gold will sign copies of his books following the talk. For more information, call 856.7170.

Wishing You A Peaceful Holiday Season!

From the OMNI Center for Peace, Justice & Ecology



Events Calendar Now Online!

The new calendar includes events for CAT, is updated frequently, and is open to additions at any time! Send all events to Amanda, cultureclimber@yahoo.com

**Please click the link in the Newsletter Email you've just received,
and you'll be whisked away
to OMNI's online calendar!**

Or, Find the calendar online by typing this into your browser:

[http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?
src=v0mu7v7bhseaeaaguj0hhr3lv8%
40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago](http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=v0mu7v7bhseaeaaguj0hhr3lv8%40group.calendar.google.com&ctz=America/Chicago)

