



Editor: Melanie Dietzel, 479-305-0520

Please send upcoming events to this email address:

melaniedietzel@yahoo.com

OMNI CENTER---UPCOMING EVENTS, MEETINGS and CALENDAR

A SPECIAL MESSAGE

Thank you to Leslie Oelsner for guiding us to this website

<http://www.imaginepeace.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 C.A.T. Forum Schedule:

Tuesdays, 12/11 and 12/18	6:00p.m.	Democracy NOW!
Thursdays, 12/13 and 12/15	6:00p.m.	Democracy NOW!
Friday 12/14	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.freespechtv.com

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:

[“What Would Jesus Buy?”: As Holiday Buying Frenzy Begins, New Film Tracks Anti-Consumerism Gospel of Reverend Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping](#)

The Activist Studio - These are broadcast times for *The Activist Studio* [ep 1] on Free Speech TV [DISH Network - channel 9415].

Note all times are Eastern Standard.

Wednesday November 14 @ 1:30pm; 11:30pm

Thursday November 15 @ 6:30am

Sunday November 18 @ 12:30pm

Tuesday November 20 @ 1:30am

The Activist Studio brings together activists and non-profits to talk about their projects, issues, hurdles, and success stories. Host Ashara Ekundayo talks with immigrant rights activists Luis Espinoza from the United Food and Commercial Workers, and Jordan Garcia from the American Friends Service Committee.

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, Jon Zimmer, Tom Kennedy, 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

OMNI CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

--December 5 through December 11, OMNIA Book Drive - OMNIA is hosting a textbook drive supporting the Room to Read Literacy program in South-eastern Asia in front of the University Bookstore from December 5 through December 11. Anyone interested in volunteering to staff the table, please send an email to omniua@uark.edu listing the dates and times you wish to volunteer. We will be issuing out tax-deduction receipts to the donors of textbooks, so even if you aren't able to help staff, you can still support by donating!

--December 10, Monday - United Nations Human Rights Day, 1948

--December 11-13, 1981 - The Mozote massacre of civilians by El Salvadoran troops, some of whom were trained at Fort Benning, GA.

--December 15, Bill of Rights Day, 1791

--December 16, Sunday, 6:30P.M. HOWL: Women's Open Mic at Nightbird Books, Old Mill Building, Corner of School and 6th Streets, Fayetteville - 2007 HOWL SOMETHING NEW:

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.

--December 23, Sunday, 7:30p.m. Video Underground, United Campus Ministries, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville, Joyeux Noel (Merry Christmas) - In 1914, World War I, the bloodiest war ever at that time in human history, was well under way. However on Christmas Eve, numerous sections of the Western Front called an informal, and unauthorized, truce where the various front-line soldiers of the conflict peacefully met each other in No Man's Land to share a precious pause in the carnage with a fleeting brotherhood. This film dramatizes one such section as the French, British and German sides partake in the unique event, even though they are aware that their superiors will not tolerate its occurrence. (Taken from imdb.com) For more about this film, go to <http://www.merrychristmas-themovie.com/> Runtime: 116 min.

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 at 902 W. Maple in Fayetteville, on the main floor of the Presbyterian and Disciples United Campus Ministry. Visit us: <http://omni-vu-films.blogspot.com/>

--December 31, 1961 - The Marshall Plan expired after distributing more than \$12 billion in aid to Europeans. Subsequently, instead of following this pattern for the solution of world ills and conflicts, the US mainly chose armed force.

--January 9, Wednesday, 7-9p.m., Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 901 W. Cleveland, Fayetteville, Michael Dowd and Connie Barlow(Connie at 6-6:45pm; Michael at 7-9pm) - Most writers would be thrilled to have a Nobel laureate endorse their new book. For author Michael Dowd, no less than five Nobel laureates — most in the sciences — have written glowing reviews of praise for Dowd's unique take on evolution. But add in the fact that Reverend Michael Dowd was

once a conservative evangelical who protested the teaching of evolution and things get interesting! With new polls showing Americans as deeply divided as ever over the origins of life, Dowd's brand new book, *Thank God For Evolution!: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life* (Council Oak Books) is already being celebrated on both sides of the debate. For more information on the presenters see www.thankgodforevolution.com and also their older website www.thegreatstory.org (look for the "version 1.0" link) to find writings as well as free audio and video presentations on both websites. If you would like to attend a preview screening of DVDs on the work of Dowd and Barlow, please email leigh@herwords.org or call 582-9209 for more information.

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS---UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

--December 15, Saturday, 10a.m. - 3p.m., Memphis Center for Independent Living, 1633 Madison Ave., Memphis, Free Media Training - Do you sometimes feel like the message about your issue is not getting out to the public? That you need to learn more about how the media works? How to get airtime? How to develop a long-term communications strategy? How to come across better on television interviews? How to get your message down to a 30-second "sound bite"? You are invited to a FREE MEDIA TRAINING sponsored by the Common Message Project. This exciting media training will address issues such as media literacy, framing a message about your issue, developing a consistent message based on your values, and crafting a communications strategy. You will also have an opportunity to speak about your issue on-camera and get professional feedback. Our trainer will be Nora Ferrell of Valerie Denney Communications, based in Chicago. Lunch will be provided. We do hope you will join us at this informative free meeting. Please RSVP to this email jacob@midsouthpeace.org or call 901.725.4990. We look forward to hearing from you!

--December 19, Wednesday, 11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m., Fayetteville Public Library (Walker Room), League of Women Voters Open Forum: Water Conservation and Protection - A panel will discuss onsite water treatment systems and their impact on development, water quality and regulation. Speakers are Kevin Harrison, Beaver Lake's Grandview Heights Condominiums; Fred Jacks, Mayor of Bethel Heights; John Gray, Mayor of Greenland; and Alison West, ADEQ District 1 Field Inspector Water Division. Bring a sack lunch if you wish. Drinks are provided. For Further Information: Contact - Joyce Hale 527-2777

--December 31, Monday 3pm - January 1, Tuesday, 3p.m., New Year's Meditation Retreat at Wattle Hollow - A silent Vipassana meditation retreat will occur at Wattle Hollow, with full guided instructions in the various techniques, plus journaling exercises and yoga sessions. Supper and breakfast will be potluck, with Wattle providing the usual peppermint tea, brown rice, and oatmeal in the morning. Beginners are welcome, along with our usual sangha members. This retreat will be run on dana (the pali word for donation/generosity).

--January 26, 2008, Saturday, doors open at 6, Fashion Show starts at 7:30p.m., "Night in White", George's Majestic Lounge, Dickson St. - 3rd annual fashion show with silent auction, door prizes, and free hors d'oeuvres, sponsored by SARPA (Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention Agency). Tickets are \$15.00 general admission. Tickets include after show with Benjamin Del Shreve and the Ben Rector band. SARPA provides education and prevention programs

throughout the community as well as 24/7 direct survivor services available to survivors and co-survivors of sexual assault. Sarpa has recently developed the first and only formalized Adult Sexual Assault Response Team Program with a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner clinic. All of Sarpa's services are free and available in Spanish. website: www.sarpa.us

--January 31 and February 1, 2008, Denver, National PR Conference for Progressives -

Progressive activists can sharpen their communications skills at a "national conference on media relations for progressives." The True Spin Conference will include 25 workshops, lectures, and panel discussions by some of the leading progressive PR practitioners in the country.

The faculty includes: Medea Benjamin, Code Pink; Andy Bichlbaum, Yes Men!; Kathy Bonk and Emily Tynes, Authors, Strategic Communications for Nonprofits; Beach Codevilla, Spitfire Strategies; Lori Dorfman, Berkeley Media Studies Group; Alan Jenkins, The Opportunity Agenda; Martin Kearns, Green Media Toolshed; Robert Perez, Fenton Communications; Rashad Robinson, GLAAD; David Sirota, Author, Hostile Takeover; and others.

The first True Spin Conference in 2006 sold out with 200 registrants from around the country, including PR people from all types of progressive organizations.

Session topics include: How to Deal with EDs Who Just Don't Get it; YouTube: Show and Tell; Strategic Media Planning; Be like GLAAD; Demystifying the Interactive Web; Theatrical Protest: A Case Study in Pink; How to Collaborate with the Netroots and Bloggers; Connecting PR to Fundraising; and How to Work with Hollywood .

<http://www.truespinconference.com/program.htm>

--NIGHT-COURSE ON HISTORY and PRACTICE OF NON-VIOLENCE OFFERED BY

PROFESSOR SIDNEY BURRIS and GESHE DORJEE - Professor Sidney Burris and Geshe Dorjee will offer their course on the history and practice of non-violence in the Spring of 2008. The course will meet every Tuesday night from 6:00-8:50 p.m. in Old Main. HIST 399V (Special Topics, 3 hours credit): "Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Dalai Lama: The Fate of Non-Violence in the 21st Century."

Course Description:

This course will examine the history of non-violence by studying the careers of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Dalai Lama. Professor Burris will provide the socio-historical lectures surrounding these three figures, while Geshe Dorjee will teach the philosophy and practice of non-violence that directed the lives of these three extraordinary individuals. The course will familiarize the students not only with the philosophical context for these revolutionary ideas, but will also examine the historical consequences of its practice, from India's fight for independence to the Civil Rights movement in America. The course will conclude with an in-depth examination of the community of Tibetans in exile as they are currently being led by the Dalai Lama. A substantial component of the course will also be given to understanding how the principles of non-violence might be profitably adopted in our own lives as cogent responses to the political and social crises that are erupting both here in America and abroad. Aside from anthologies of work by Gandhi and King, a selection of other books and films central to an understanding of non-violence will be consulted. For more information, contact the History Department at the University of Arkansas.

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

LOCALLY:

CHRISTMAS IN A LEAN YEAR

From Omni Co-President Gladys Tiffany

This year our budget is even tighter than usual, and I know that we're not the only ones who feel that way. It's going to be a simple Christmas, so necessity being the mother of invention, we've decided to make the best of it, and just shift our priorities. We're planning a great Christmas, but we're not going into debt this time.

How do we have a great Christmas without ending up in debt? That's the challenge. If there's any good time to figure that out, now is the time. It's not just the lean economy. I'm feeling distinctly resentful that the president has linked my shopping habits to my patriotism; It makes me want to keep more bucks in my pocket, and hand fewer to big corporate stores. That does make it necessary to change some of my habits though, and I'm still plotting out how to handle this.

One friend's entire family has decided to buy presents ONLY from thrift stores this year. Another has had present-making be a central part of the home school curriculum. Do you have some good ideas about doing a great Christmas while withholding dollars from the corpratocracy? Email us at omni_center@yahoo.com. We're looking for more good ones.

Here's a few neat websites with suggestions you might like:

Bread for the World: Seeking Justice, Ending Hunger: www.bread.org

Heifer International: Arkansas nonprofit with global impact: www.heifer.org

Schools for Schools: American kids to African kids: www.s4s.invisiblechildren.com

World Land Trust: Save an acre of forest for a green Christmas gift: www.worldlandtrust.org

Feel Good Gifts: charitable giving: www.lastminute.com

And of course www.omnicenter.org (Hope you recognize them)

And here are a couple of sites about a different set of alternatives:

How to create your own Christmas: www.christmasgifts.net

Annâ€™s Alternative Gifts: annieshomepage.com

Buy Nothing Christmas: www.buynothingchristmas.org (my favorite so far)

Got any others you want to suggest? We can post them in the newsletter two weeks from now for the last-minute rush.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT GLOBAL WARMING IN ARKANSAS FROM ART HOBSON

Dear friends,

Arkansas took a wrong turn last month when its Public Service Commission approved, in a 2-to-1 decision, Swepco's planned 600-MW coal-fired electric power plant near Texarkana. This

plant will pump as much planet-killing CO2 into the atmosphere every year as half the cars and light trucks in Arkansas. There are better options: energy efficiency, renewable energy, and, if necessary, natural gas (which emits half as much CO2 as coal). States such as Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas, are doing better than Arkansas by cancelling planned coal plants in favor of healthier alternatives.

Governor Beebe can stop this plant by placing a moratorium on construction until the newly-appointed Governor's Commission on Global Warming has had a chance to evaluate it and report to the state legislature late next year.

We Can Turn This Decision Around, Please Sign the Petition to Governor Beebe At:

<http://www.PetitionOnline.com/nocoalpp/petition.html>

You needn't be an adult, or an Arkansan, or a U.S. citizen to sign. Global warming affects us all.

If you signed a petition against this plant a few months ago, this is a NEW petition. The previous petition went to the Arkansas Public Service Commission. Please sign this petition also! Please ask your family members to sign!

BETSY WRIGHT ORGANIZING GIFTS FOR DEATH ROW INMATES

It will be time for Christmas and seasonal celebrations by each of you, as well as by Arkansas's death row inmates.

I am coordinating the production of a bag for each guy to contain two t-shirts, two pairs of socks, pads of writing paper, writing pens, pre-stamped envelopes, hot chocolate mix, and some nuts and candies. (How I wish we could add a couple of oranges and apples, but they are forbidden fruits, as the prison management says some inmates make wine from them!)

In addition, the Dept. of Correction has made a contract with one of its commissary vendors to offer a food sack for relatives and friends to give to an inmate. The maximum sack costs \$111.00. Ten of the 38 guys on the Row have someone who will buy the sack for them as a gift. With your help, we will see to it that the remaining 28 men also receive a food sack.

So, I am asking for your help in putting together enough money to make both of these Holiday and Christmas sacks possible. Any contribution will be helpful and my gratitude will be enormous! Checks should be made out to me please.

Betsey Wright
15156 Dutchman's Drive
Rogers, AR 72756

betseywright@cox.net

479-925-4440

925-4443 FAX

THE ART EXPERIENCE HOLIDAY SALE

Jo Ann Kaminsky

• Prints, cards and paintings

Hank Kaminsky

• Sculpture

Fawn Potter

• Felted bowls

- Dorothy Marcy
• Hand crocheted hats
• Puzzles, toys & beeswax products
Haley Duke
• wishes

Dec. 17 & 18, 6 to 9 pm, 641 W 6th, Fayetteville

OMNI CENTER LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

For six years, United Campus Ministries has been the generous landlord to the Omni Center. However, the mission of United Campus Ministries is to serve the spiritual needs of university students. With new leadership, the campus center is gearing up for new programs and more student related uses for their building. It is time for the Omni Center to find a home of its own. This step, of course, means finding available space that will meet our needs, and finding the money to pay for it.

So, once again, we are calling on members and friends who believe in our goals. We are asking that you keep us informed if you hear about, or see any vacant buildings that might work as our home base, and we are establishing a building fund to raise the money we'll need to buy what will be the Omni Center. We look forward to working with you as we make this move toward our future. We will have space in which to expand our programs, and transform our dreams of a better tomorrow into reality. If you wish to contribute, please make checks to Omni Center and write "Building Fund" on the memo line.

omni_center@yahoo.com

Omni Center

902 W. Maple, Fayetteville, AR 72701

THE 2ND ANNUAL LITTLE ROCK FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2008 DATES

This popular festival is accepting entries. The 2nd Annual Little Rock Film Festival (LRFF) will be held May 15th-18th, 2008 in Downtown Little Rock, Arkansas.

Coming off of a successful first year, it will once again showcase films from around the world and honor local filmmakers through its Best of Arkansas award. Last year there were more than 20 Arkansas films showcased throughout the festival along with multiple panels and workshops that were geared in educating the local film community.

Call for Entries began November 15, 2007 and films can be submitted through the LRFF's website, www.littlerockfilmfestival.org. Fees for films submitted by January 2, 2008 are \$10 for Shorts under 35 minutes long, and \$25 for features 35 minutes or over. Films submitted after this date, and on or before February 15, 2008 are \$20 for shorts and \$35 for features.

For more information about the Little Rock Film Festival, please contact

Co-Coordinator/Director of Arkansas Program Jack Lofton via cell

501.352.5687 or email Jack@LittleRockFilmFestival.org.

NONVIOLENCE, WHISTLEBLOWER, INVESTIGATIVE REPORTERS
COLLECTION IN UA'S MULLINS LIBRARY

The collection now contains 263 items. You can browse the complete list of available titles by searching the subject *Nonviolent Peacemaking and Victims of Violence and Wars* in InfoLinks, the Libraries' online catalog.

The current endowment is \$63,092.34. Since fiscal year 2003-04, a total of \$9,317 has been spent to help cover the cost of the books and films. Mullins hopes to continue to purchase items at the rate of approximately \$3,200 per year from the interest of the endowment.

2008 \$500 ANNUAL OMNI CRITICAL THINKING AWARDS FOR 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 is 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 Country 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).

NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

BBC REPORT ON THE KEELING CURVE LEGACY

[50 Years On: The Keeling Curve Legacy](#). By Helen Briggs, BBC News, December 2, 2007. "Its name - the Keeling Curve - may be scarcely known outside scientific circles, but the jagged upward slope showing rising carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels in the atmosphere has become one of the most famous graphs in science, and a potent symbol of our times. It was 50 years ago that a young American scientist, Charles David Keeling, began tracking CO₂ in the Earth's atmosphere at two of the world's last wildernesses - the South Pole and the summit of the Mauna Loa volcano in Hawaii. His very precise measurements produced a remarkable data set, which first sounded alarm bells over the build-up of the gas in the atmosphere, and eventually led to the tracking of greenhouse gases worldwide."

From Robert McAfee
Climate Change Messenger
Answering the Call—theclimateproject.org

WINTER SOLDIERS: IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN INVESTIGATION

On the weekend of 13-15 March, 2008, Iraq Veterans Against the War will assemble history's largest gathering of US veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as Iraqi and Afghan survivors. They will provide first hand accounts of their experiences and reveal the truth of occupation. Support Iraq Veterans Against the War and their Winter Soldier: Iraq & Afghanistan Investigation. Join in supporting their efforts to reveal truth in the way that only those who lived it can, by signing the statement of support:

<http://www.ivaw.org/wintersoldierstatementofsupport>

VISIT WEBSITE TO VIEW TIMELINE OF THE DECLINE OF OUR BILL OF RIGHTS

Bill of Rights Under Bush: A Timeline

Taken from

<http://mondoglobo.ning.com/group/questionauthority/forum/topic/show?id=1509099%3ATopic%3A2937>

Click on this short link if above link does not work <http://tinyurl.com/34k7c7>

By [Phil Leggiere](#), writing for [QuestionAuthority](#)

Submitted by Chris Delacruz

REQUEST FROM AL GORE TO SIGN PETITION

Dear Friend,

In Bali, Indonesia thousands of delegates from nearly 190 countries have gathered at the UN Conference on Climate Change. In a few days, I will address the conference to urge the adoption of a visionary new treaty to address global warming and I want to bring your voices with me.

[Click here to sign my petition today](#) and I will bring your signatures on stage with me as a clear demonstration of our resolve:

<http://climateprotect.org/standwithal>

Together, we will call on the US government to assume a new leadership role in solving the climate crisis.

World leaders including British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and newly elected Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd have all agreed to aggressively battle the climate crisis - yet our country still lags behind.

Over the next ten days, I would like you to help me get people from across the country to sign our message to the global community. We can demonstrate that the American people understand the immediacy of the climate crisis and want to work with the nations of the world to solve it. Time is short - we need to mobilize everyone to bring this message to Bali:

<http://climateprotect.org/standwithal>

The American people want a visionary treaty to address climate change and for the US government to play a positive leadership role in its development.

Thank you,

Al Gore

P.S. [After signing the petition](#), please urge your friends and family to sign the petition and join the movement. <http://climateprotect.org/standwithal>

PEACEWORK IN ANOTHER FAYETTEVILLE

Fayetteville North Carolina is home to the largest military base in the country, Fort Bragg, where the 82nd Airborne Division lives. It's also home to Quaker House, a peace center that's been in operation since Vietnam war years right across the street from the gates of Ft. Bragg. They do peace demonstrations and education like Omni Center does. They also do other things worth noting.

The relationship of Quaker House and the base has always been tense, but the role of Quaker House in the lives of Ft. Bragg soldiers has become critical in recent years. Quaker House runs one of the GI Rights Hotlines that quietly operate around the country. 24-hours a day, hotline staff and volunteers take calls from soldiers, mostly young -- with haunted voices, who say they've had enough, and want to know how to get out of the military. Sometimes, Quaker House can't help them. Often though, they have some bits of information that help beleaguered soldiers desperate for options.

This is a costly operation to run, and every year of the war the number of calls to the hotline has ballooned. In 2002, they fielded 4067 calls. In 2007, they're estimating 10,000. The 82 Airborne is now returning from deployment and tensions are expected to escalate. Here's a non-success story from the November Quaker House newsletter:

"On November 5 Sgt. Steven Lopez shot his wife to death, then turned the gun on himself. The murder-suicide occurred in Lovell, Wyoming, but Lopez was in the 82 Airborne, and stationed

here at Ft. Bragg. In fact, he was AWOL at the time, having returned to Wyoming ‘to work on his family’ following grueling tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

‘After [Iraq] was when he really started having a tough time,’ his father said. ‘He volunteered for a lot of patrols, and he participated in a lot of close combat situations. He told me he had seen a lot of things that he couldn’t talk to me about.’

Steven Lopez fit the profile of many war-related casualties: from a small town with high poverty rates, he enlisted after high school. He was 23, his wife Brenda, 22. The deaths made orphans of their toddlers, a son and daughter.”

Check out Quaker House on the web at www.quakerhouse.org . They really need donations in support of peace work that’s intense and grueling in its own way. The “support” these troops need is not magnetic ribbons. What Quaker House, and other hotline groups provide is the real thing.

IPCRI PEACE EDUCATION WORKSHOP

On January 4-5, 2008 IPCRI (the Israel/Palestine Center for Research and Information) will be convening a two-day workshop on peace education. The Workshop will bring together peace educators, curricula writers, encounter facilitators, peace studies practitioners, conflict resolution practitioners, mediators, and activists from academia, research sector, governmental and community organizations and others from Israel, Palestine and beyond.

The Workshop will be a tremendous opportunity for dialogue, debate and visioning with collaboration and cooperation between the body of theory and practice. The Workshop will be meeting grounds for dialogue and mutual learning from the field of peace education from the viewpoint of academia and from the field of practitioners. The Workshop will raise critical issues and acquire new insights into the profound peace education developments in Israel, Palestine and around the world. Furthermore, the Workshop will provide an excellent opportunity to build connections across multi-disciplinary sectors.

Main Themes for the Workshop

- Moving from a Culture of hate to a culture of peace
- Resources for peace educators
- Peace education curricula - research and development
- Coping with existing curricula in Israel and Palestine
- Using media in peace education
- Using the arts in peace education
- Virtual Peace education - using the internet in peace education
- Peace education in the informal educational arena - youth centers, youth movements, clubs, etc.
- Institutionalizing peace education - confronting the formal education systems

Participation - Call for Abstracts

IPCRI is calling on potential participants to submit an abstract for making a presentation at the workshop. This is not a formal academic conference therefore; abstracts will be evaluated on a wider basis than the normal academic criteria. We are looking for creative, exciting and innovative approaches to peace education.

For more information on cost and registration, visit Gershon@ipcri.org Or

fax to: 02-676-8011

FRESH MEDIA OFFERINGS TO CHECK OUT

NEW BOOK ON ELECTION 2008

Foer, Franklin, et al. *Election 2008: A Voter's Guide*, from Yale University Press, 2007, Profiles of the Republican and Democratic presidential candidates and their positions on the main issues.

NEW FILM ON ENVIRONMENT

Scarred Lands and Wounded Lives: The Environmental Footprint of War will appear soon, by Alice and Lincoln Day, fund for Sustainable Tomorrows, www.fundforsustainabletomorrows.org. Omni Center had the pleasure of hosting filmmakers Alice and Lincoln Day on Earth Day, 2006.

NEW 2008 CALENDAR

"Salaam, Shalom, Solh: Nonviolence and Resistance in the Middle East and Beyond," by War Resisters League. Phone toll free 877-234-8811, or at www.warresisters.org. It's packed with information day by day.

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

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Here is a link to a slideshow of photos from various OMNI folks.

<http://omni-slideshow.blogspot.com/>

Please note: If you click on a photo, you will get some info about the photo.

If you move your mouse near the top of the photos, some control buttons will appear to pause, resume and adjust the speed of the slideshow.

LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Link Carries Interactive Calendar of Events in Northwest Arkansas—

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

- Farmers' Market Schedules
- 2007-2008 Razorback Football Schedule
- 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/>

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):	3886	3189
Since "Mission Accomplished" (5/1/03) (the list)	3747	3081
Since Capture of Saddam (12/13/03):	3426	2883
Since Handover (6/29/04):	3027	2555
Since Election (1/31/05):	2449	2293
American Wounded	Official	Estimated
Total Wounded:	28582	23000 - 100000

Latest Fatality Dec. 5, 2007

[Page last updated 12/5/07 11:55 am EDT](#)

IRAQI CIVILIAN BODY COUNT

Civilians reported killed by military intervention in Iraq

MIN.

78,071

MAX.

85,055

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

\$476,000,000,000 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.