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Pease send upcoming events to this email address:

OMNI CENTER---UPCOMING EVENTS, MEETINGS and CALENDAR

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS

Attention Parents and Kids...

Earth Scouts is coming!

Finally, Omni Center has found a really fun activity for children ages 3-13. We've wished for years that we could get some kind of group organized for children that would teach human rights, respect for the earth, and peace between people. Now, Sara Milford has found a curriculum taken from the Earth Charter that focuses in a very kid-friendly way on those very topics.

-- July 29, Sunday, 4:30p.m., First Earth Scouts Get-together, Walker Park, BMX pavilion (North side) - Join Omni for a Potluck Picnic, Omni will furnish hotdogs, veggie dogs and lemonade. Bring your favorite sides and desserts. We can also start being eco-ready by bringing our own families' plates and dinner ware . . . we won't have to landfill anything.

Entertainment will be "The Singing Froelichs," a soon-to-be-famous family of lively troubadours.

Come find out what kind of club Earth Scouts is. We promise it'll be exciting and challenging. Parents, your help is needed, too. We look forward to seeing Omni members and kids there. If you have friends who don't get our newsletter, please invite them.

For more info, call Sara at 479-799-1890, or 'sara@everydaysimple.org'

--August 5, Sunday, Annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration, Procession:5:45p.m., Program, 6:oop.m., Fulbright Peace Fountain, UofA Campus - Col. Ann Wright will be the keynote speaker. Col. Wright resigned from the United States Foreign Service on March 19, 2003, while serving as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Mongolia . In a letter to then Secretary of State Colin Powell, Wright stated, "I felt I could not support this administrations' decision to go into Iraq, and when you disagree with a policy that feels like kind of a cornerstone, I morally felt that I could not participate in it."

Gather at the steps where Lafayette deadends at Arkansas Ave. at 5:30p.m. for a procession to the Peace Fountain.

The program will include special music and reading of names of victims of war and of peace heroes. If your organization would like to set up a display table, please **contact Chava Schacter, 839-3238 or btoll@hughes.net**. You are invited to meet Ann Wright at a reception immediately following the program in the Deep End of United Campus Ministries, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville.

For more information, contact **Melanie Dietzel, 442-8600 melaniedietzel@cox.net**

Omni/Community Access Television (C.A.T.) Connections

Omni C.A.T. Forum Schedule:

Tuesdays, 7/24 and 7/31 6:00p.m.

Thursdays, 7/26 and 8/2 6:00p.m.

Saturday, 7/28 2:00p.m.

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

For a complete FSTV broadcast schedule...

1 [click here](#)

2 select your time zone

3 watch more FSTV!

Democracy NOW with Amy Goodman: Daily 7:00a.m., Sundays 6:00p.m. From Amy Goodman, we hear the news that will never be reported in the mainstream media.

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>

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, Mendy Knott, Tom Kennedy

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>

-- Video Underground on Hiatus - Omni Center's Video Underground will be on hiatus July and August. Check this space in the August Newsletters for the fall schedule.

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://www.northwest-ark.com/vu/>

--July 26, 5:30p.m., Susan Idlet's, 716 N. Anna Place, Fayetteville, M11 Committee - The committee who organized M11 March are gearing up for counter-recruitment actions.

--July 28, Saturday, Fayetteville Public Library, Fayetteville Freethinkers - Supporting freethought and rational thinking for over 8 years. Meetings are every last Saturday of the month.

--July 29, Sunday, 4:30p.m., Walker Park, Earth Scouts organizing picnic (see notice at top of newsletter).

--July 29, Sunday Morning, Pinnacle Baptist Church - Ride Up With Dick Bennett to visit Pinnacle Baptist Church and hear Rev. Ronnie Floyd speak.

--August 4, Saturday, 10:30a.m., Fayetteville Public Library, Rapid Response Writers - All writers and potential writers are invited to attend.

--August 5, Sunday, 6:00p.m., Hiroshima/ Nagasaki Commemoration - Retired Army Colonel Ann Wright will be the keynote speaker at Omni's Annual Commemoration of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Japan to remember all those who have died in war and to celebrate all those who work for peace (see notice at top of newsletter).

--August 7, Tuesday, 6:00p.m. Critical Thinking Committee Pot Luck Dinner - We'll meet at Jo Bennett's, 2473 Jimmie Ave., Fayetteville to welcome Lynda Haley-Brothers and Carole Westby as our new facilitators for the Omni Center Critical Thinking Award.

--August 14, Tuesday, 6:00p.m., Free Speech TV / Democracy Now dinner, Jo Bennett's, 2473 Jimmie Ave., Fayetteville.

--August 16, Thursday, 5:30p.m. Potluck, 6:00p.m. meeting - Omni Center Steering Committee Meeting, Deep End of United Campus Ministries, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville

--August 19, Sunday, 6:30p.m., HOWL: Women's Open Mic, Nightbird Books, 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 Omni, supported Nightbird Books.

--August 24, Friday, 6:00p.m., Omni Center Summer Member Forum - Reports from members' summer conference travel.

--September 4, Tuesday, 7:00p.m, United Campus Ministries Chapel, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville, Faith Communities, Peace Traditions - OMNI seeks coalition with all who embrace our nonviolent goals for peace and justice, and of special importance are the faith traditions. In this time of preemptive attacks and retaliations, of invasion and war, of weapons of mass destruction, and of pandemic hunger and disease, a potential bastion of wisdom and practice for peace resides in our faith communities. In these roundtables and symposia, we meet in the spirit of peace, seeking to increase our own understanding of our own faith's peacemaking and to share that knowledge with others. Participants for the Fall, 2007 Forum include Hameed Naseem from

the Muslim community, Rev. Lowell Grisham, Rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, as well as others. For more information, contact Dick Bennett 442-4600 or jbennet@uark.edu

--September 14-15 - 2nd Regional Peace Conference, Little Rock (Watch for details in upcoming newsletters)

--October 26 - United for Peace and Justice - Regional mobilization in a city somewhere near us (watch for details in upcoming newsletters).

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS---UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

--July 25, Wednesday, 7:00p.m., Ozark Headwaters Group General Meeting - The monthly meeting of the Ozark Headwaters Group of the Sierra Club will be held at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 23, at Powerhouse Seafood, 112 N. University off Dickson Street in Fayetteville. JULY 25 PROGRAM TOPIC: TO BE ANNOUNCED. For information, contact Dot Neely at dgneely@uark.edu.

--July 30, Monday, 6:30p.m, World Healing Meditation - Join together at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 901 W. Cleveland, Fayetteville for the "World Healing Meditation." It will be a time focusing on personal growth and world peace (healing). If you have questions, contact Pamela Ramsfield at pkramsfield@juno.com cell number 479-422-8866.

--Aug 3 - Aug 5, Friday thru Sunday, SUMMER DIVERSITY WEEKEND Eureka Springs, Arkansas www.diversitypride.com

--August 9, Thursday, 8-9p.m. CDT, Presidential Candidates In First Ever Gay Debate
- For the first time the leading candidates for the presidency will hold a televised debate devoted solely to LGBT issues. The one-hour event will be broadcast on gay network LOGO and through live streaming video at LOGOonline.com.

--August 8-14, Asheville, North Carolina, Southwest Convergence for Climate Action - The Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) is proud to invite you to participate in the Southeast Convergence for Climate Action, www.climateconvergence.org (select Southeast) at a secluded site near Asheville, NC. You'll have a chance to learn more about Social Justice, Energy Justice, Climate Justice, Non-violence and Democracy skills. The week-long intergenerational training retreat ("Action Camp") offers education about false solutions to climate change ("clean coal" and nuclear) and how to build real-world skills for real climate solutions; organizing; action.

Registration required - come for all or part. Low cost (\$50 -- \$100, sliding scale)...scholarships available. Meals and tent camping included in registration OR stay in area motels; limited Asheville home-stays possible. To register please visit:

<http://www..climateconvergence.org/southeast/index.php>

Daily:

Intensive workshops on anti-oppression, basics and advanced issues in energy, environment, climate, local/global sustainability, democracy skills. All issue sessions will include strategic thinking and planning, spanning local to global community time, shared chores, yoga, evening campfire, music

Panels/Workshops include:

- Confronting False Solutions to Climate Change including "clean coal" and nuclear power
- Anti-oppression leadership training
- Strategic Campaign building

- Grandparents of our movement telling stories of past victories
- Nukes 101, Fossil Fuels 101, Organizing 101
- Global Nuclear Energy Partnership and its Global Mobile Chernobyl
- Countering mountain top removal and challenging expanding coal energy plans
- Principles of non-violent activism
- Climbing and other action skills
- Making big puppets
- Homegrown sustainability - wind, solar, energy efficiency, permaculture, small hydro, small biofuels
- ...and more!

More information: Mary Olson NIRS Southeast Office 828-675-1792 - or nirs@main.nc.us

NIRS is now on myspace! Join us at <http://www.myspace.com/nonukesnirs>

Nuclear Information and Resource Service, 6930 Carroll Avenue, #340, Takoma Park, MD 20912, 301-270-NIRS; nirsnet@nirs.org; www.nirs.org

WHAT'S GOING ON?---CURRENT EVENTS

LOCALLY:

VISIT WEBSITE TO SEND MESSAGE TO THE ARKANSAS PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

A local environmental group, sponsored by Fayetteville's Omni Center, has been working against the global warming and other effects of the Texarkana coal plant. The group has established a web site where you can, with a click of a mouse key, send a pre-formatted message, or your own message, to the Arkansas Public Service Commission. Just go to

<http://www.sustainablearkansas.info>, where you'll find a brief explanation and the message. You'll need to fill out your name and address.

You can send the message even if you've already signed our local petition--the petition and the email are different. Try not to send the email twice from the same person, but DO use the same email address to send messages from you and your friends or family, each person filling out their own name. You can be any age, from any state in the country (but we're focusing on Arkansas). The Arkansas PSC wants to hear from you.

This power plant will emit as much CO₂ as half the cars and light trucks in Arkansas. We're nearing a global "tipping point" that could melt the polar ice caps. We've GOT to get moving on this.

Go to <http://www.sustainablearkansas.info>

PLEASE CIRCULATE THIS TO OTHERS IN ARKANSAS, but try to restrict it to people who will use it seriously and responsibly.

NONVIOLENCE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE TRAINERS - ARE YOU OUT THERE?

Are there Omni members or friends out there who have training in nonviolent civil disobedience techniques? We need you. We've had a request for a volunteer to offer training at the next Regional Peace Conference that will happen September 14-15, 2007 at Ferncliff Center near Little Rock. We'd love to talk to you about it. Please email Gladys at gladystiffany@yahoo.com.

NATIONALLY

SIX YEARS OF THE GLOBAL GAG RULE HAVE WEAKENED WOMEN'S ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

In January, 2001, during his first full day in office, President Bush reinstated the Global Gag Rule, also known as the Mexico City Policy. Implemented by the Reagan administration in 1984 and later overturned by President Clinton, this repressive anti-woman policy prohibits U.S. funding to international family planning organizations that:

- provide abortion counseling or services,
- disseminate information about abortion,
- offer referrals to abortion providers, or
- lobby for abortion law reform within their own countries.

Even foreign organizations that use only non-U.S. monies to fund abortion-related advocacy and services -- including only those that are legal in their own country and would be legal in the U.S. -- are denied U.S. funding under the Global Gag Rule.

Called the "gag" rule because it represses free speech and debate on abortion-related issues, **the destructive health policy undermines efforts to prevent unwanted and forced pregnancies, and thus the need for abortion, by reducing access to contraceptives.** The Global Gag Rule forces international family planning programs to make a cruel choice:

1. accept U.S. funding and adhere to the strict rules of not providing any abortion-related counseling, services, referrals, or advocacy, or
2. reject the policy and lose essential U.S. funds and contraceptive supplies.

Since the gag rule was reinstated in 2001, many overseas health clinics have closed and programs that remain have suffered severe budget cuts, laid off large numbers of health professionals, and scaled back services. **As a result, the lack of access to services and contraceptives has led to an increase in unintended pregnancies and unsafe abortions and has hindered HIV/AIDS prevention efforts.**

Action

Needed

Representatives Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.) and Chris Shays (R-Conn.) reintroduced the **Global Democracy Promotion Act** in the House, and Senators Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) and Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) in the Senate. The bill would repeal the Global Gag Rule altogether and provide essential funds for international family planning programs. If passed, the legislation would prohibit the denial of U.S. funds to overseas organizations based on the medical services they offer, including counseling and referrals.

Abolishing the Global Gag Rule is vital to meeting the demand for family planning funding and supplies in the developing world. Filling this unmet need through U.S. foreign aid can help reduce the 52 million unintended pregnancies, the estimated 29 million abortions, and 75,000 deaths from unsafe abortions that occur each year. Furthermore, access to condoms will help curb the spread

of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. Full access to preventative measures and family planning services is vital to giving women the resources they need to control their fertility and sexual health.

TAKE ACTION NOW! [Ask your members of Congress to co-sponsor the Global Democracy Promotion Act.](#)

HAPPENINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED

WASHINGTON COUNTY CITIZENS VISIT PROSECUTOR ABOUT DEATH PENALTY
From Press Release by Gladys Tiffany, Co-President of
Omni

On July 18, Omni Center's Human Rights Committee asked several Washington County citizens to go with us to visit our new county prosecutor, Mr. John Threet, in his office at the County Courthouse. The delegation also delivered a list of organizations in Washington County that are on record with regard to the death penalty and about 160 names of citizens of Washington and Madison counties who have signed a petition that states that they consider the death penalty to be morally wrong, and asks for John Threet not to seek the death penalty in any case regardless of the circumstances.

Omni Center, and the friends who made the visit with us, are in the camp of people who feel that the death penalty is a policy of the past that needs to be scrutinized carefully. We've seen the growing body of statistics that show that the benefits supporters usually claim for using the death penalty don't seem to measure up to what really happens. We're also watching as the real costs of the death penalty keep adding up. What seems like a simple or cheaper solution than imprisonment turns out to be many times more expensive in financial cost to the state. Non-financial costs keep rising too. People can argue about whether it's acceptable to execute an innocent man by mistake, but the moral implications of tolerating such an imperfect justice system seem to say that the racism embedded in this are acceptable too. 40 percent of death row inmates are low-income minorities - mostly Black. Since the Black population is only around 15 percent, there are stark race and class problems with the way the laws are administered that are glossed over when we say this is ok.

We can acknowledge that Mr. Threet was very considerate during our conversation. He listened attentively to everything we had to say. However, his response has left us uncomfortable with the outcome of our meeting. The points he used in defense of the practice were (1) it's a good tool to pressure a defendant to accept a lesser conviction, (2) because of that, the state doesn't have to go to trial every time (frequently people plead guilty to avoid going to trial with possibility of the penalty hanging over them), and (3) the families of victims may want it, which carries considerable weight for Mr. Threet. He says he feels he'd be derelict in his duty to the state if he didn't reserve it as an option.

Omni Center and friends must point out that the case is being made for using the death penalty so (a) it can be cheaper and easier for the state; and (b) as a tool of retribution for aggrieved families. Both of those reasons seem deeply inadequate. To keep from compromising human rights for state expediency, and to avoid bald revenge are some of the reasons that the American Republic chose to become a nation of laws. If these are the reasons for continuing to use it, we wish to say to our state that it's time to give up the practice. We can step into the 21st century with the rest of the human race by laying it aside. There are other ways to deal with

criminal behavior that don't force us to compromise ourselves morally.

Omni Center and those who agree with us . . . have asked Mr. Threet to refrain from calling for the death penalty under any circumstance. We feel we speak for a significant part of the population of our community when we say this, and look forward to other conversations where we can consider it.

THE COST OF WAR

Casualties in Iraq

The Human Cost of Occupation

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

Date	American Military Casualties in Iraq	
	Total	In Combat
American Deaths		
Since war began (3/19/03):	3632	3002
Since "Mission Accomplished" (5/1/03) (the list)	3493	2894
Since Capture of Saddam (12/13/03):	3171	2696
Since Handover (6/29/04):	2773	2369
Since Election (1/31/05):	2195	2106
American Wounded	Official	<u>Estimated</u>
<u>Total Wounded:</u>	26806	23000 - <u>100000</u>

Latest Fatality July 20, 2007

[Page last updated 07/21/07 10:34 am EDT](#)

Source for Casualties of War: <http://www.antiwar.com/casualties/>

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IRAQI CIVILIAN BODY COUNT

Civilians reported killed by military intervention in Iraq

Min
67945

Max
74336

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

Cost of the War in Iraq

\$445,453,880,900 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 Bldg., Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-4301.

Leslie Parker, appointments secretary: 202-225-4301.

Ready for the edge of your seat? [Check out tonight's top picks](#) on Yahoo! TV.