



Editor: Melanie Dietzel, 479-442-8600 Please send upcoming events to this email address: [melaniedietzel@cox.net](mailto:melaniedietzel@cox.net)

## OMNI CENTER---UPCOMING EVENTS, MEETINGS and CALENDAR

### SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENT

--June 30, Saturday, 9:00a.m., Northwest Arkansas Pride Parade and Picnic - NWA Pride will be holding a Pride Parade and Picnic to celebrate Pride Month and promote community in Northwest Arkansas. The parade will start lining up at 9 AM on Mountain Street near the Fayetteville City Administration Building. The parade will start at 10 AM. The parade route starts on Mountain Street, turns left on East Street, then proceeds down Dickson Street, ending at the Walton Arts Center parking lot. The parade will be followed by a picnic at Agri Park, Fayetteville, AR, from 11 AM - 8 PM. NWA Pride [nwa\\_pride@yahoo.com](mailto:nwa_pride@yahoo.com) [http://www.geocities.com/nwa\\_pride](http://www.geocities.com/nwa_pride)

**To obtain forms to enter float or vehicle in Parade, or for booth/table at picnic:**

📎 [nwaPrideParadeFloatApplication4a.doc](#) (40k) [[Preview](#)] [Scan and Save to Computer](#)

📎 [Tabling\\_Booth\\_Registration\\_Form.doc](#) (34k) [[Preview](#)] [Scan and Save to Computer](#)

- Please send the Parade float/vehicle form to Ken at [nwa\\_pride@yahoo.com](mailto:nwa_pride@yahoo.com) Decorated Vehicles and floats should register in advance.
- Please send the Picnic booth/table form to Thomas Markham at [pridepicnic@nwaqlbtcc.org](mailto:pridepicnic@nwaqlbtcc.org) The Pride Picnic will be at Fayetteville's Agri Park (Garland Ave) from 12-6pm with food for purchase sponsored by the NWA GLBT Community Center. Tables are available for "family" friendly businesses and organizations.

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

#### Omni C.A.T. Forum Schedule:

Tuesdays, 6/26 and 7/3 6:00p.m.

Thursdays, 6/28 and 7/5 6:00p.m.

Saturday, 6/30 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](http://www.freespechtv.com)**

#### **Featured Programs Airing This Week:**

##### *Why Media Diversity Matters*

A national town hall meeting satellite link up between Washington DC, & Denver CO. Join author, commentator, and talk show host Tavis Smiley, Denver Mayor John Hickenlooper, FCC Commissioner Michael Copps, LCCR President and CEO Wade Henderson, and other distinguished speakers for a one-of-a-kind event on the importance of media diversity.

LIVE BROADCAST : 12pm EST, Friday, June 29

Rebroadcast: (all times EST) 9pm : Fri, June 29, 8am; Sat, June 30, 10am and 4pm, Sun, July 1

### ***Sweet Misery***

The artificial sweetener, aspartame, is the bedrock of the diet industry. Found in everything from fizzy drinks to vitamin pills and marketed under a variety of different names, it is difficult to detect and even harder to avoid. But how safe is it? Does it really cause brain tumors, blindness and other serious illnesses? This shocking documentary investigates how the FDA came to approve such a potentially dangerous product.

Freespeech Documentariess: 1pm and 10pm EST, Sunday, July 1

### **For a complete FSTV broadcast schedule...**

1 [click here](#)

2 select your time zone

3 watch more FSTV!

### **Featured Video of the Week**

#### ***The Closure Myth***

The Closure Myth tells the story of Aba Gayle, a woman whose daughter was stabbed to death in 1980, yet who now visits the murderer on death row and acts as an advocate on his behalf. Tracing Aba Gayle's dramatic transformation from before her daughter's murder to the present, The Closure Myth tells a powerful story of forgiveness and gives voice to an often overlooked perspective in the death penalty debate.

**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.

**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

**-- 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/>

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**--June 26, Tuesday, 7:00p.m., from 7-8:30 PM, United Campus Ministries in the Deep End, Friends of the Environment** - Join those inspired by John Seed's talk at St. Paul's recently, and who are ready and willing to start taking action in support of lightening our load on the planet. Meet at the Deep End at United Campus Ministries, 902 W. Maple. Let's get together, share ideas, have fun and see where this goes. For more information, contact: Brad Volz, [bdvolz@yahoo.com](mailto:bdvolz@yahoo.com)

**--July 9, Monday, 6:30p.m., Illustrated lecture by Jefferson Fletcher on Israeli Settlements in the West Bank, United Campus Ministry, Presbyterian and Disciples Students Center, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville.**

*OMNI's policy regarding events pertaining to the Palestinian Territories and Israel: OMNI facilitates all who request by providing a venue and a projector and screen. Mr. Fletcher is doing everything else, including publicity. Because our desire is to increase knowledge and dialog, we invite people with diverse attitudes to attend these events, to listen respectfully, to assume the goodwill and dignity of the speakers, and to ask questions instead of making speeches, since we are there to learn from another person's perspective.*

For more information contact Dick Bennett 442-4600, or Gladys Tiffany 973-9049 or Melanie Dietzel, 442-8600 OMNI's co-presidents.

**--July 10, Pastors for Peace Fayetteville Visit** - Omni Center is honored to sponsor their visit, and to host a potluck for them. Pastors for Peace travel to Cuba every year, distributing much-needed aid from America, and publicizing the sanctions imposed on Cuba. As they prepare to cross the Mexican border, the PFP caravan announces its arrival publicly, and draws media attention. Some years they are allowed to cross; other years, they are stopped cold. They've sometimes been imprisoned. It can be a harsh experience, but results in some great stories.

These PFP volunteers are Americans who are willing to risk their own freedom to unmask an injustice that has touched their hearts. Their visit to Fayetteville is your chance to meet these dedicated volunteers? If you would like to help other Omni members organize and/or publicize their visit, please contact Gladys at [gladystiffany@yahoo.com](mailto:gladystiffany@yahoo.com), 973-9049.

**--July 11, 6:50a.m., FSTV BREAKFAST** - Please join us July 11, a little before 7a.m. to see Amy's DEMOCRACY NOW starting at 7, followed by breakfast and discussion. We're hoping that this will be a monthly event on the second Wednesday of the month. Amy's format is about 15 minutes of short news reports followed by one to three interviews until 8:00a.m. For more information, please contact Dick Bennett, [jbennet@uark.edu](mailto:jbennet@uark.edu) or 442-4600 FSTV is USA's preeminent alternative news source

**--July 15, 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](mailto:howl@herwords.org). HOWL is a collaboration between Herwords and Omni, supported Nightbird Books

**OTHER ORGANIZATIONS---UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS**

**--June 28, Thursday, 1-5p.m., What is Mine to Do?** - Clarify and claim the truth of your unique self, relate this truth to your highest purpose, your mission, create your own mission statement. This workshop assists you to discover your own particular "calling." Listening to the truths and values that are at the heart of your own identity, you can, with deeper confidence, satisfy needs of individuality, authenticity, purpose/meaning, and effectiveness. The facilitator for this workshop is Pattie Williams, M. Ed., LPC and the meeting space is at Office of Soul Matters, 230 W. Center, Fayetteville. To register, call 479-443-2096 or register online at [info@soulmatters.org](mailto:info@soulmatters.org)

Fee: \$45. Send \$20 deposit to Soul Matters, 230 W. Center, Fayetteville, AR 72701  
Pay remaining \$25 at workshop.

**--June 27-July 1, Atlanta, Georgia, United States Social Forum**-Do you believe that another world is possible and another U.S. is necessary? If so, come join CODEPINK and activists from around the world at the United States Social Forum in Atlanta from. The Social Forum will be a historic gathering of peoples from the rainbow of peace and justice movements--an exciting opportunity to network, share our visions, find inspiration, and work together to change the world.

CODEPINK is facilitating two workshops--Women Stopping the War in Iraq and Preventing One with Iran, and From Hillary Clinton to Nancy Pelosi: How can we get people in power to better represent women's interests, as well as a "CODEPINK 101" Women's Activist Training with sessions on gaining media attention, non-violent direct action, and campaign strategy and community organizing. We will also be bringing a trademark CODEPINK Congressional action to Atlanta. To find out more about our workshops, click [here](#). Other powerful and exciting events will include a World Court of Women, a Peace Caucus and a Runway Peace Project Fashion Show, along with dozens of other workshops, panels, receptions and actions for peace and justice. For the entire CODEPINK schedule, and to sign up to join our delegation, click [here](#). You can also visit the official US Social Forum for further information: <http://www.ussf2007.org/>.

--June 30, Saturday, Fayetteville, GLBTIA Pride Parade and Picnic-**Mark your calendars for this great opportunity to march for equal rights and social justice, and to celebrate diversity.** (See the notice at the top of the Newsletter). "The moment a mere numerical superiority by either states or voters in this country proceeds to ignore the needs and desires of the minority, and for their own selfish purpose or advancement, hamper or oppress that minority, or debar them in any way from equal privileges and equal rights -- that moment will mark the failure of our constitutional system."  
---Franklin D. Roosevelt

--July 5-8, Thursday - Sunday, 3rd ANNUAL AFRICA IN THE OZARKS FESTIVAL, Eureka Springs, AR

- Drum and Dance Classes each day by Master Teachers
- Performances by Master Drummers and Dancers on Fri and Sat nights
- African Dinner on Thur evening
- Dancing to West African pop band AKWAABA
- African Market vendors

Advanced tickets on sale soon. More information coming soon at the Afrique Aya website  
<http://afriqueaya.org>

--July 6-8, July 13-15, July 20-22, Spring International Language Center seeks homes for one weekend this summer - Call Erin Grantz at 575-7600 or [egrantz@uark.edu](mailto:egrantz@uark.edu). The June 22-4 students are graduate and Ph.D. students from all over the world working on degrees in social justice. Intermediate English fluency. July 6-8 undergrads from Africa native or near native speakers of English studying the US Civil Rights Movement. July 13-15 English teachers from Mexico and Ecuador. July 20-22, students preparing for graduate studies in US universities, students proficient in English. Almost 100 weekend hosts needed.

--July 10, Tuesday - July 13, Friday, The ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) USA 2007 National Workshop to be held in Fayetteville, Arkansas

- The theme this year: *The Economic Benefits of Local Climate Action*. This is an opportunity for local government staff and elected representatives from across the U.S. to share stories and strategies on how to save money and create other community-wide benefits through local climate protection initiatives.

<http://www.iclei.org/index.php?id=392>

--July 21, Saturday, 2:00p.m., The Board of directors for the Newton County Wildlife Association Annual General Membership Meeting - The meeting will be held at the Ozark Campground Pavilion along the Buffalo River near Jasper, Arkansas. The meeting should last about two hours, after which there will be swimming and a light potluck (snacks and beverages).

The agenda will include discussions of current issues and activities that we have been engaged with over the past year, as well as, board elections and proposed by law changes.

We continue to seek a curtailment in the use of prescribed fire on public lands, and, we have been watching the expansion of Rocky Mountain Elk onto USFS lands.

Our current board consists of Shawn Porter and Barry Weaver (co-chairs), Dennis Larson (treasurer), Dave Spencer (secretary), and Kent Bonar (naturalist). There will be two board positions open. There are also one or two alternate positions open. We encourage you, our members, to consider becoming a board member or alternate. Active members are our greatest asset and strength.

Please join us for this important meeting on July 21. For more information, contact NCWA via phone, mail, or email. Newton County Wildlife Association, P.O. Box 189, Jasper, AR 72641 (870)428-5328 or 446-6126

## 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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.

#### SIERRA CLUB TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE ON DIRTY COAL/ARKANSAS

Sierrans and friends:

As you may be aware, plans are afoot to build a new, dirty, coal-burning power plant right here in the state of Arkansas .

This plant is set to be located near Fulton and, by the company's own admission, will spew almost SIX MILLION TONS of carbon dioxide and NEARLY FOUR HUNDRED POUNDS of mercury into air EACH YEAR. CO<sub>2</sub> is the main component of the global warming problem and mercury is a poison that pollutes our air, water, fish, and bodies.

Our nation needs energy, but there are much better ways to generate that energy. Coal is the single dirtiest energy producing option we have. It's time that Arkansas , and our nation, put coal aside and focused on clean, renewable sources of energy.

Please join us for an event in which we will release the Sierra Club's latest report on coal, entitled "The Dirty Truth About Coal: Why Yesterday's Technology Should Not Be Part of Tomorrow's Energy Future." As a friend of Sierra Club, you can preview this report at <http://www.sierraclub.org/coal/dirtytruth/report/>.

**WHAT: SIERRA CLUB PRESS CONFERENCE ON DIRTY COAL/ARKANSAS**

**RELEASE: "THE DIRTY TRUTH ABOUT COAL" SIERRA CLUB REPORT**

**WHEN: TUESDAY, JUNE 26TH, 11 A.M.**

**WHERE: ARKANSAS STATE CAPITOL (FRONT STEPS)**

If you're interested in clean air and clean energy, please join us on Tuesday for the first step in our Clean Energy campaign.

If you represent a group that would like to participate/speak out on Tuesday, please email me and let me know. We need all hands on deck.

Thanks—

Glen Hooks, Associate Regional Representative

Sierra Club

1308 West 2nd Street

Little Rock , AR 72201

Office: (501) 301-8280

Cell: (501) 744-2674

[glen.hooks@sierraclub.org](mailto:glen.hooks@sierraclub.org)

[www.arkansas.sierraclub.org](http://www.arkansas.sierraclub.org)

#### HAPPY HOUR AT FAYETTEVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Becky Hauck's well-received Happy Hour at Arsagas at the Library continues Thursday, July 5, from 4-6 pm with Geoff Oelsner sharing original songs and covers. Geoff will be accompanied by musical magus Kelly Mulhollan and by Leslie Oelsner. BONUS PERFORMANCES by the beautiful duo Mira Holiman and Leslie.

#### ARKANSAS ONLINE ARTISTS REGISTRY

If you are a practicing artist or know people who are please pass this along. Very helpful site which allows ten images of Original works to be posted.

<http://www.arkansasarts.com/programs/registry/>

##### About the Registry

Our online Artists Registry is a free service provided to the Arkansas arts community. Registry members have the opportunity to post contact information, a link to their website and display up to 10 images of their work.

##### Benefits

It is an excellent tool for artists who would like a web presence, and for arts enthusiasts and supporters to discover the rich variety of artists in Arkansas. Artist Registry members receive our monthly e-newsletter, as well as information about workshops, competitions, calls for entry and other postings by e-mail. Members are also eligible to participate in Small Works on Paper, the annual juried exhibition sponsored by the Arkansas Artist Registry.

##### How to Join

Click here to download the Artist Registry Application.

<http://www.arkansasarts.com/programs/RegistryApp.pdf> Or select the Join the Registry link at the top of the page. Please mail the completed form to the address indicated below.

Arkansas Arts Council  
323 Center Street, 1500 Tower Building  
Little Rock, AR 72201

For more information on the Artists Registry contact Sally A. Williams, artist services manager at (501) 324-9348 or email [sally@arkansasheritage.org](mailto:sally@arkansasheritage.org).

### SUMMER DRUM CIRCLE IN SESSION

The Summer Drum Circle is now in session on the University of Arkansas Campus! The Drum Circle is open to all students, faculty, staff and community members who are interested in discovering a fun and effective approach for relaxation. The Drum Circle utilizes drums, rhythm instruments, Native American flutes and relaxation techniques to both calm and energize participants. Absolutely no musical experience is needed to participate. All instruments are provided and there is no fee to participate.

The group is facilitated by Jeff Martindale, Ph.D., a psychologist as well as an experienced musician. Please call 575-5276 to inquire about the Drum Circle. The Drum Circle meets from noon to 1 p.m. every Wednesday at the Multicultural Center, located on the 4th floor of the Arkansas Union.

### GLOBAL WARMING PRESENTATION OFFERED BY DR. ART HOBSON

Retired physics professor Dr. Art Hobson has worked up a 60-minute PowerPoint presentation on global warming that he recently presented to the League of Women Voters, followed by questions and discussion. He'd be happy to give this presentation/discussion to other groups. Phone him at 479-575-5918 (days), or email [ahobson@uark.edu](mailto:ahobson@uark.edu), if you know of a group that would like to invite him to speak.

### OMNI SEEKS STORIES ABOUT PEACEMAKERS

Do you have a story about a peacemaker in Northwest Arkansas that you'd like to share? OMNI Center wants to publish your story. For more information visit [www.omnicenter.org](http://www.omnicenter.org)

### OMNI MULLINS LIBRARY PEACE BOOK AND FILM COLLECTION

The endowed collection is composed of four subject areas: VICTIMS, NONVIOLENCE, INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING, WHISTLEBLOWING. Rationale: In a world in which the value of victory over others too often predominates--militarists, imperialists, dominionists, bigots-- these books and films foreground the value of caring for the victims of economic, military, and religious depredations.

Nonviolence is a chief value underlying the protection and rescue of the victims of the world. In the word "Satyagraha," the name Gandhi gave to a way of overcoming injustice, "satya" means the search for truth and "agraha" means persistence. Inseparable from Satyagraha is "Ahimsa"; that is, "a-himsa" (hims: desiring to kill): the effort to avoid killing until the desire to kill has been replaced by love for others and justice.

The "search for" and the "effort to" remind us of Gandhi's lifelong "experiments with truth." Investigative journalists and whistleblowers are two kinds of people who assist us in our search for truth. Working outside centers of power, these journalists are dedicated to the

persistent exposure of corruption and discovery of truth, always the essential initial step toward justice.

Working inside governments and corporations, whistleblowers take great economic and even life-threatening risks to expose wrongdoing and return truth and honesty to ruling enterprises.

Thanks to Molly Boyd, Mullins has a news rotator item about the "Peace" collection. You can see it at <http://libinfo.uark.edu/>. You may have to click the reload button on your browser several times to get it to come up.

Or, you can view it directly through the feeds at <http://libinfo.uark.edu/info/whatsnew.asp>.

Notice on that "What's New?" page, we have added a new link to "Collection News," which features the Omni Center Collection. You can access it directly on

<http://libinfo.uark.edu/info/collectionnews/collectionnewsfall06.asp>.

## NATIONALLY

### INVITATION FROM AL GORE TO JOIN LIVE EARTH CONCERTS

On July 7, more than 2 billion people will join together to watch the Live Earth concerts and demonstrate to our leaders that the time has come to solve the climate crisis.

**Wherever you are that day, you can be part of the action.** At events around the world, we are going to convert the potential energy of Live Earth into a global campaign. In thousands of homes, people will invite their friends and neighbors to watch the concerts and join the movement.

In order to make these parties truly global, I've decided to partner with Avaaz. The 385,000 Avaaz members from every corner of the world, who mobilized to pressure the G8, amazed me. Avaaz's work to give ordinary people around the world a powerful voice in global decision-making is inspiring, and **your organizing around the G8 Summit made a significant difference. Now we have the opportunity to expand on that great effort.**

**Will you commit to organize a Live Earth house party on July 7th?** The parties will be fun--and they'll make a difference. If you've got a few friends and a TV, you've got everything you need.

[http://www.avaaz.org/en/live\\_earth/lg.php](http://www.avaaz.org/en/live_earth/lg.php)

7.7.07 will be the one opportunity we have to bring millions of new people into our campaign. We cannot let it slip by.

If you host a Live Earth Party, you'll have access to a special video I've made to urge people to take action. Together, I know we can convince everyone attending these parties to get involved. In a few short hours, you and your friends can watch the concert, take action -- and, at the end, upload a photo from your event that will be accessible to others taking part throughout the world. Through these parties, we can reach more people than ever before and build a truly global movement to solve the climate crisis.

Holding a Live Earth party is easy. All you need is a television and a few friends. We will provide you with all the tools you need.

Sign up as a party host by visiting:

[http://www.avaaz.org/en/live\\_earth/lg.php](http://www.avaaz.org/en/live_earth/lg.php)

Live Earth will be a unique moment when the uninterrupted and undivided attention of the world will be focused on the climate crisis. **I need your help to make it count.**

Thank you,



**Al Gore**

#### CONSERVATIVES DOMINATE THE AIRWAVES

Conservative Sen. Trent Lott (R-MS) raised a furor last week when he called out the right-wing radio hosts working to defeat comprehensive immigration reform. "Talk radio is running America," Lott said. "We have to deal with that problem." Indeed, despite the dramatic expansion of viewing and listening options for consumers today, traditional radio remains one of the most widely used media formats in America, reaching an estimated 50 million listeners each week on more than 1,700 stations across the nation. More importantly, talk radio is dominated almost exclusively by conservatives. The Center for American Progress and Free Press yesterday released the first-of-its-kind statistical analysis of the political make-up of talk radio in the United States. The results confirm the stunning lack of diversity in talk radio, and raise serious questions about whether the companies licensed to broadcast over the public airwaves are serving the listening needs of all Americans.

**HOW BAD IS IT?:** In the spring of 2007, 91 percent of the political talk radio programming on the stations owned by the top five commercial station owners was conservative, and only 9 percent was progressive. Ninety-two percent of these stations (236 stations out of 257) do not broadcast a single minute of progressive talk radio programming. In the top 10 radio markets in the country, 76 percent of the news/talk programming is conservative, while 24 percent is progressive. In four of those top 10 markets -- Philadelphia, Atlanta, Dallas, Houston -- the domination of conservative talk radio is between 96 and 100 percent.

**To read complete article go to:**

[http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/06/talk\\_radio.html](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2007/06/talk_radio.html)

#### HAPPENINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED

ANNUAL PEACE GARDENS TOUR

Once again the Omni Center Annual Peace Gardens Tour was a special adventure for all who took part. This year's seven featured gardens were at the homes of Ed Laningham, Emily Kaitz, Candy Clark and Teddy Cardwell, Ginger and Gary Belew, Hamsa and Moshe Newmark, Nancy Maier, and Dick Bennett. Leigh Wilkerson, who generously provided her booklet "Feeding Our Friends: Gardening with Nature" for garden visitors, shared this sketch:

"What I loved about seeing each garden was the love made visible as gardeners took their yards --- ranging from postage stamp sized to big spreads -- and touched, tended, decorated, planted and designed living works of art. These are not gardens designed by "staff" if you know what I mean -- what a relief! They are everyday kinds of places, made special through everyday hearts and hands and many artistic eyes.

There are tiny, magical touches:

--a Japanese entrance to a shady bamboo retreat that requires bowing a tiny bit to enter so the walker makes the traditional gesture of gratitude and respect bodily, even if the walker's mind is on other things...

--lovely birdhouses on top of brightly colored posts

--abundant birdfeeders putting out a welcome to winged neighbors

--a tiny city front yard full of flowers with a house and colors that look like a postcard from a magical town...

--small sculptural pots perfectly filled with bouquets of crystal fragments and blown glass

--peace poles dotting a street here, a hillside there...

Mostly though, it was remarkably refreshing to go to homes of people I've never met but who share the Omni connection to peace/justice/ecology. To find these sites scattered across the area felt so hopeful -- it's hard to explain."

Thanks to all the gardeners who opened their private space to the public, thanks to Lauren Hawkins for her colorful maps and to Aubrey Shepherd for all his promotional work, and especially thank you to all the visitors who spent a lovely afternoon while helping to fund Omni's work.

#### REPORT FROM CONFERENCE ON TORTURE

**Is America a nation of Torturers? U.S. use of torture** is still a hot-button issue, thank heaven. A recent conference in North Carolina gave a chance for groups working on the issue, and people disturbed about it, to get together and share what they're learning about the issues and how to combat them.

There are an amazing number of groups around the world working on this, and their level of commitment is striking. A workshop presenter from Paris, France is part of a group that's been working steadily for 30 years. They claim at least part of the credit for the steady decline of support in Europe. They simply refuse to give up. This is not a flash-in-the-pan issue; it's a dark side of human nature that has twisted the lives of both victims and perpetrators for a very long time.

Torture is an individual tool of the same domination system that demands the right to make war as its prerogative. As a peace group, part of Omni Center's call is to resist human rights abuses that feed into that war/violence system.

There were some good suggestions of actions to take. First, educate yourself, but don't depend on the mainstream media to help you do it. Don't let the issue die . . . tell your friends and family that this is important to you. Write letters and make phone calls. Groups can do a lot. Adopt a minute against torture. Send it to official people. Pass around a petition; there's a good one from National Religious Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT). Keep writing letters to congress. Support legislation - last year's Military Commissions Act is being called "The Torture Act." The Act must be changed, and there are specific suggestions for what needs to change in it. Speak in support of UN, Amnesty International, and other dedicated groups working on this issue.

Seek others in your religious group who are concerned about this, and join one of the national groups forming. Here are some of them: "International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture" (FIACAT) [www.fiacat.org](http://www.fiacat.org); "National Religious Campaign Against Torture" (NRCAT) [www.nrcat.org](http://www.nrcat.org), "Evangelicals for Human Rights" (EHR) [www.evangelicalsforhumanrights.org](http://www.evangelicalsforhumanrights.org), or "Clergy Members Fighting to Regain US Moral High Ground" [www.theday.com](http://www.theday.com).

Torture is a moral issue that religious and secular people can all see is wrong. If our government can't find the will to extract itself from this unjust and demeaning practice, they need us to help them summon it. Torture isn't just demeaning to its victims; it demeans the perpetrators and societies that condone it. I'm not willing to have this be the image of my country. Let's not let this be us any more.

Submitted by Gladys Tiffany


## THE COST OF WAR

### Casualties in Iraq

#### The Human Cost of Occupation

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

#### American Military Casualties in Iraq

Date	Total	In Combat
		
<b>American Deaths</b>		
Since war began (3/19/03):	3558	2941
Since "Mission Accomplished" (5/1/03) ( <a href="#">the list</a> )	3419	2831
Since Capture of Saddam (12/13/03):	3097	2635
Since Handover (6/29/04):	2699	2308
Since Election (1/31/05):	2121	2045
<b>American Wounded</b>	<b>Official</b>	<b><a href="#">Estimated</a></b>
<a href="#">Total Wounded:</a>	26129	23000 - <a href="#">100000</a>

Latest Fatality June 23, 2007

[Page last updated 06/23/07 10:55 am EDT](#)

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

# IRAQI CIVILIAN BODY COUNT

Civilians reported killed by military intervention in Iraq

Min	Max
66195	72489

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

**Cost of the War in Iraq**  
**\$439,379,472 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);  
<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://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. Steve Gray, coordinator of office. Stacy McLure, Deputy Chief of Staff

(STACEY.McCLURE@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV) Web site (with contact link):

<http://www.boozman.house.gov/> Heath Hasenbeck, intern (one of them). 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.