Our Peace & Justice Family Gathers Together for
ICPJ’s 2003 Annual Meeting

Sunday, March 30, 2003
Church of the Good Shepherd
2145 Independence Blvd.
(1/2 mile East off Packard, between Jewett and Pine Valley lights.)

6:00 p.m. - Multi-Ethnic Potluck Supper
(Bring a place setting for yourself and a favorite dish to share.)

7:30 p.m. - Program
Steering Committee Chairman Derek Yip-Hoi, presiding

☐ Introduction of our new ICPJ staff members.
☐ A Word of Thanks To Departing Staff Members
☐ Election of Members to Steering Committee.
☐ Presentation of 28th Hunger Walk’s Local Grants.

☐ Speaker:

Michael Kennedy
Vice Provost for International Affairs and
Director, International Institute -- University of Michigan

"Religious Sensibility and Secular Hope--
from Polish Solidarity to Global Terror"

☐ Program for Children with Cooperative Games

It’s a Family Affair!
Bring your family and friends to enjoy an evening with the Our Peace & Justice Family.
In Recognition of Women’s History Month
Women’s International League for Peace and
Freedom, NOW, and the Women’s Studies
program at EMU present:

Women’s Voices for Peace

March 11, 2003  4:30 p.m.
Halle Library Auditorium
EMU Campus

- A Short history of the Women’s Peace and Social
  Justice Movements by Prof. Beverly Fish
- Remarks about repressive and regressive measures
  affecting women in progress and planned by the
  federal government, by Carolyn Diem.
- An explanation of UN Resolution 1325 by Odile
  Hugonot-Haber
- A video play reading by WILPF members of
  “Jane Addams and Friends”.

Discussion and Refreshments. Questions: 761-7967

Veterans for Peace

Chapter Forming

—Bob Krzewinski

Due in large part to the policies of the Bush administration,
the membership of a unique peace organization, Veterans for
Peace (VFP) has grown five-fold in a few years. For those
not familiar with the group VFP seeks to increase the public
awareness of the total cost of war, restrain our government
from intervening in the affairs of other nations, end the arms
race and abolish war as an instrument of foreign policy.

Locally, a chapter of Veterans for Peace is forming and peace-
minded military veterans are urged to become involved.
Projects for the group include public education, political
lobbying and a host of other activities. Regular meetings are
held and a web page (http://community.mlive.com/cc/
VFPWC) has been established. And while veterans can have
full membership in the organization, non-veterans who
support the goals of the group can join as associate members.
For more information contact Bob Krzewinski at 734-487-
9058, or e-mail to wolverbob@cs.com.

An Interfaith Call for Energy
Conservation and Climate
Justice

“At stake are the future of God’s creation on earth; the
nature and durability of our economy; our public health
and public lands; and the environment and quality of life
we bequeath our children and grandchildren. We are being
called to consider national purpose, not just policy.”

Forty-one senior U.S. religious leaders have signed this
statement and the program it evokes for a National Religious
Partnership for the Environment. At the center of their
current concern is the American automobile, which causes
“climate change, pollution, and dependence on foreign oil,”
imposing huge costs on generations yet unborn. You can
connect with this effort by checking their website at
<www.protectingcreation.org, and even send a message to
Ford, GM and Chrysler telling them to do their part.

22nd Annual Pax Christi Michigan State Conference

Shaping a Nonviolent
Response to U.S. World
Domination

Saturday, April 5, 2003
Cristo Rey Church, Lansing, MI

Keynoter: Richard Deats

Fellowship of Reconciliation’s Director of Communications
and Editor of Fellowship Magazine. He has taught and
lectured on “Active Nonviolence” in over a dozen countries.
In 1986 he played a major part in a training project that
contributed to the “People Power” revolution in the
Philippines. He has authored a number of books and his
articles have been published in many national publications
and periodicals.

Brochures available. Questions? Call (517) 482-2558;
E-mail:TirakPaxMI@aol.com
Get to Know These Great New Faces At ICPJ

When you visit the ICPJ office or attend its functions, you will see the faces of some important new helpers in our efforts for Peace and Justice.

Chuck and Grace Welcomed As Our New Staff Coordinators

At its January Meeting the Steering Committee received and approved the recommendation of our Personnel Committee, hiring two new staff coordinators.

Chuck Warpehoski began work the end of January as a full time staff person. In 2001 he graduated with honors in Sociology from Grinnell College, where he had been active in student peace, justice, and environmental concerns. He spent one summer as an intern with People for the American Way Foundation, and another as an intern for the East Timor Action Network, both in Washington. Last summer he served as a program coordinator for the Nicaragua Network, and he continues as a board member for the Network and Alliance for Global Justice. It is a bonus that he has also done work with web designing for the Iowa Peace Institute and as a computer consultant.

Chuck is married to Nancy Shore, another Grinnell activist and graduate, who hopes to begin graduate social work here in the fall. They are now active in the Ann Arbor Friends Meeting.

Grace Potts will join the staff the first of March. and will be working half time. She is active at St. Francis Catholic Church where she has recently been assistant to the director of development for St. Francis School. An alumnus of the University of Connecticut, with majors in history and chemistry, she brings experience in grant funding as well as considerable computer skills.

Grace currently serves on the Board of Directors of our Religious Action for Affordable Housing, and has directed the Garden Project of St. Francis, which grows a sustainable food garden, giving organic produce to area needy. She had done work in religious education and problem pregnancy counseling. In 2002, she was the food coordinator when St. Frances hosted our CROP Walk.

Grace is married to Paul Potts, a software engineer, and they have an 8 year old son, Isaac.

We feel most grateful that two such experienced and skilled staff people. Just how the work will be divided between the two is yet to be fully worked out after Grace begins work.

ICPJ Depends Heavily On Volunteers

Bob McMurray has recently taken on the job of ICPJ treasurer, relieving our interim treasure, Rebecca Kanner. Thanks to a gift from Pastor Bill Ingraham, he will be using a laptop to keep track of our funds and offer us up-to-date reports. Already he and Chuck have been in touch with long-time treasurer Nancy Hultquist for counsel.

Francine Allen recently came to our office to offer her services and has become our new librarian. Our store of books, magazines, newsletters and videos gets a lot of use, but also demands constant attention. With her help we hope to make the library more accessible and promote still further use.

Our Thanks To Those Who Have Given Much As Our Staff Members

Sherry Wander leaves our staff after three years of energetic and talented service. It is her hope to enter graduate study in social work as soon as possible, and meanwhile she will be working toward that end and also continuing her work with the Michigan Peace Team. Sherry concluded her service in late January, save for being on call for counsel and with many questions. We are thankful for all Sherry has given us.

Barbara and Russ Fuller will conclude their work on the staff at the end of March. We are eager so see whether they will flunk retirement this time. They have been asked to remain on the steering committee and will continue to help as volunteers.
On Thursday, February 20, ICPJ’s Latin America Taskforce hosted Jesus Tecu Osorio as part of the Rights Action “Building Alternatives in Guatemala” national speaking tour. Jesus is a Mayan-Achi man from central Guatemala and a survivor of the U.S.-supported military and paramilitary violence in his country.

Jesus described the frightful history of intimidation that his village of Rio Negro faced. As a mountain village and a community that opposed relocation to make way for the World Bank-supported Chioxy dam, Rio Negro was a frequent target of military terror.

On March 13, 1982, Jesus witnessed the massacre of 177 women and children in Rio Negro, including the murder of his two-year-old brother. Jesus only survived because he was forced to work on the farm of one of the attackers—the very attacker who killed his brother. Jesus was just ten years old.

Yet despite the attacks and the campaign of violence, terror, and intimidation, Jesus spoke out. He revealed the locations of the mass graves from the Rio Negro Massacres and he testified against paramilitary members responsible for the attacks. With Jesus’s help, for the first time in Guatemala the perpetrators of a massacre were convicted for their crimes.

In the talk, Jesus also described his continued efforts to promote justice in Guatemala. He continues to work with other communities to gather evidence, exhume mass graves, provide proper burials for the dead, and to build a legal case “not just against those who carried out the attacks, but also against those who ordered them.”

What I found most amazing about Jesus’s presentation was his courage. His country faced genocide, and his work for justice puts him and his family in constant. When asked where he finds his courage, Jesus replied, “I feel that the strength and courage comes from the massacres themselves . . . I feel the support of the women who were assassinated. Without their support, we who do this work could not continue, for we are the spokespeople for those without a voice.”

I was in Nicaragua for 3 months last fall, September 4 - December 9 at the Nicaraguan Spanish School. This was my ninth trip since 1992.

Each time I have returned to Nicaragua, I have thought that the poverty cannot possibly grow worse. Each time I go, I find that it has. In September, the Nicaraguan government released statistics placing the unemployment rate officially at 80%. The Nicaraguan newspapers and television news carried information about deaths in the Department of Matagalpa from hunger. Many coffee workers were moving to the city of Matagalpa and other cities in an effort to find work and food for their families.

There were ongoing reports of deaths from dengue. Nicaragua caught the tailwinds from Hurricane Inez, bringing 3 nonstop days of rain in the Northwest. This brought out many more mosquitoes, increasing the risk. Although in Leon, the city government was spraying, it was not enough to eliminate the problem.

In all cities, there were many people, mostly children and old people, begging in the streets. There were street hardened kids who were glue sniffers. Sniffing glue wards off hunger pangs and gives a few moments of euphoria. It is also deadly, destroying the brain rapidly. Those who had been sniffing for awhile lacked physical coordination and had slurred speech, even when they weren’t high.

There were also the newly abandoned or orphaned children, sometimes in sibling groups, who wandered about dazed and confused. Some of them were toddlers. There was one old woman, new on the streets of Granada, who grabbed at people’s arms and clothing as they walked by. When I would be out at night, I would see many children sleeping in doorways. There are few programs for street children, but they have almost no funds and rely mostly on volunteers, and no government social programs.

See Nicaragua on Page 11

End Corporate Terror In Colombia

The Colombia Mobilization is hosting nationwide regional actions on March 24 and 25 to oppose Plan Colombia. The midwest event will be at Monsanto headquarters in St. Louis. Call the ICPJ office or visit www.colombiamobilization.org for more details.
Now, A US Plan for New Nuclear Arsenal

Secret talks may lead to breaking treaties

--Thanks to Robert Oppenheimer and Carolyn Diem for calling our attention to this article. It was written by Julian Borger and appeared in The Guardian of Feb. 18, 2003

The Bush administration is planning a secret meeting in August to discuss the construction of a new generation of nuclear weapons, including “mini-nukes”, “bunker-busters” and neutron bombs designed to destroy chemical or biological agents, according to a leaked Pentagon document.

The meeting of senior military officials and US nuclear scientists at the Omaha headquarters of the US Strategic Command would also decide whether to restart nuclear testing and how to convince the American public that the new weapons are necessary.

The leaked preparations for the meeting are the clearest sign yet that the administration is determined to overhaul its nuclear arsenal so that it could be used as part of the new “Bush doctrine” of pre-emption, to strike the stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons of rogue states.

Greg Mello, the head of the Los Alamos Study Group, a nuclear watchdog organisation that obtained the Pentagon documents, said the meeting would also prepare the ground for a US breakaway from global arms control treaties, and the moratorium on conducting nuclear tests.

“It is impossible to overstate the challenge these plans pose to the comprehensive test ban treaty, the existing nuclear test moratorium, and US compliance with article six of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty,” Mr Mello said.

The documents leaked to Mr Mello are the minutes of a meeting in the Pentagon on January 10 this year called by Dale Klein, the assistant to the defence secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, to prepare the secret conference, planned for “the week of August 4 2003”.

The National Nuclear Security Administration, which is responsible for designing, building and maintaining nuclear weapons, yesterday confirmed the authenticity of the document. But Anson Franklin, the NNSA head of governmental affairs, said: “We have no request from the defence department for any new nuclear weapon, and we have no plans for nuclear testing.

“The fact is that this paper is talking about what-if scenarios and very long range planning,” Mr Franklin told the Guardian.

However, non-proliferation groups say the Omaha meeting will bring a new US nuclear arsenal out of the realm of the theoretical and far closer to reality, in the shape of new bombs and a new readiness to use them.

“To me it indicates there are plans proceeding and well under way ... to resume the development, testing and production of new nuclear weapons. It’s very serious,” said Stephen Schwartz, the publisher of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, who added that it opened the US to charges of hypocrisy when it is demanding the disarmament of Iraq and North Korea.

“How can we possibly go to the international community or to these countries and say ‘How dare you develop these weapons’, when it’s exactly what we’re doing?” Mr Schwartz said.

The starting point for the January discussion was Mr Rumsfeld’s nuclear posture review (NPR) a policy paper published last year that identified Russia, China, North Korea, Iraq, Iran, Syria and Libya as potential targets for US nuclear weapons.

According to the Pentagon minutes, the August meeting in Strategic Command’s bunker headquarters would discuss how to make weapons to match the new policy. A “future arsenal panel” would consider: “What are the warhead characteristics and advanced concepts we will need in the post-NPR environment?”

The panel would also contemplate the “requirements for low-yield weapons, EPWs [earth-penetrating weapons], enhanced radiation weapons, agent defeat weapons”.

This is the menu of weapons being actively considered by the Pentagon. Low-yield means tactical warheads of less than a kiloton, “mini-nukes”, which advocates of the new arsenal say represent a far more effective deterrent than the existing huge weapons, because they are more “usable”.

Earth-penetrating weapons are “bunker-busters”, which would break through the surface of the earth before detonating. US weapons scientists believe they could be used as “agent defeat weapons” used to destroy chemical or biological weapons stored underground. The designers are also looking at low-yield neutron bombs or “enhanced radiation weapons”, which could destroy chemical or biological weapons in surface warehouses.

According to the leaked document, the “future arsenal panel” in Omaha would also ask the pivotal question: “What forms of testing will these new designs require?”

The Bush administration has been working to reduce the amount of warning the test sites in the western US desert would need to be reactivated after 10 years lying dormant.

To see this story with its related links on the Guardian Unlimited site, go to http://www.guardian.co.uk
Can We Expect Both Swords and Plowshares?
Check the costs for...

Swords
$61 Billion—Cost of first Gulf War
$47-$200 Billion—Estimate cost for invading Iraq
$50-$150 Billion—Estimate for rebuilding Iraq
$65 Billion—Estimate for keeping U.S. soldiers in Iraq first year post-war.
$15 Billion—Promised to Turkey in exchange for letting U.S. troops invade Iraq thru Turkey.

Plowshares
$20 Billion—Needed to provide health insurance for all uninsured children in the U.S. per year.
$25 Billion—Typical annual U.S. budget for international affairs.
$33 Billion—Annual U.S. federal expenditures on K-12 education for 1 year.

ATTACK ON IRAQ IS LIKELY TO PRODUCE MORE TERRORISTS

---notes by Charlotte Whitney, member of Middle East Task Force and Associate, Director, Lloyd Hall Scholars Program.

Middle East expert and peace advocate Steve Zunes spoke at the Ann Arbor Friends Meetinghouse on Sunday, January 12. He focused his talk on the pragmatic reasons against an attack on Iraq. He indicated that there are both moral and legal concerns about such an attack, but peace advocates would do well to put emphasis on the fear of terrorism in the US. He indicated that a US attack on Iraq would more than likely provoke more terrorist responses from Middle Eastern extremists who already view the US in a negative light. He listed the association of the US with support for dictatorships in the Gulf, the US support of sanctions in Iraq, and the US support of the Israeli occupation, as foreign policy initiatives provoking and justifying such a response.

Zunes indicated that terrorist groups don’t get support when there are nonviolent alternatives being utilized. It is only when there are human rights violations and no way to address them that terrorism gains a stronghold. He suggested that by drying up the base for extremist support the US would go far to prevent terrorism. However, US foreign policy, instead of following that path, has indeed, endangered national security. The military buildup in the Gulf and the threats of war, he claims, are making the US much more vulnerable to attacks. Today anti-American sentiment is the highest it has ever been.

The reason for hope, Zunes concludes, is with the growing peace movement and its ability to sway the American populace. Much like in the Vietnam war, we have stayed in our base values. However, we have been hampered since 9/11 with our anger, fear, and sense of nationalism and this has made us more vulnerable. He suggested the peace movement take on these arguments to gain strength in the coming few weeks.

Stephen Zunes is the Associate Professor of Politics and Chair of the Peace and Justice Studies Program at the University of San Francisco. His most recent book is *Tinderbox: U.S. Middle East Policy and the Roots of Terrorism.*

PERFORMANCE NETWORK and HURON VALLEY UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION presents Eve Ensler’s Necessary Targets

A Benefit Performance for the ADOPT A MINEFIELD Project of the Huron Valley United Nations Association

Saturday, March 8
3:00 p.m.
Performance Network Theater 120 E. Huron

Tickets: $27.50 ($3.5 Senior Discount)
Available at Performance Network 663 0681
or call Dorothy Wilson (971-1343) or Patricia Runyon (761-9146)
**Major Coalitions Continue Opposition to War on Iraq**

Locally, nationally and worldwide, coalitions of concerned citizens are speaking to their governments to say *NO WAR ON IRAQ!* Many of these people agree that the current regime in Iraq is horrible one. But they not only believe that war is the answer—they fear that war will bring greater threats worldwide.

**WIN WITH WAR**

Many religious groups are part of the Win Without War coalition working through a network of online activists called MoveOn. Members include groups like:

- American Friends Service Committee
- Catholic Conference of Major Superiors of Men
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Global Exchange
- NAACP
- National Council of Church of Christ
- NOW
- NETWORK—Catholic Social Justice Lobby
- Sojourners
- The Tikkun Community
- Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
- WAND

This group has been responsible for a multitude of messages to Washington. Among the latest, they staged a “Virtual March” on Feb. 26th in which every senate office receive a call every minute from a constituent. Their message: *Don’t invade Iraq. We can contain Saddam Hussein without killing innocent people, diverting us from the war on terrorism and putting us all at risk.*

You can check out this coalition and join in its efforts. Just see its website: [http://www.moveon.org/winwithoutwar](http://www.moveon.org/winwithoutwar). It often offers a way to make an immediate response.

**INTERNATIONAL A.N.S.W.E.R.**

Behind the massive marches in New York and other cities on February 15th was a coalition known as A.N.S.W.E.R. This group is calling for another huge Emergency Convergence at the White House on March 15. There will be parallel events in Spain, Greece, Japan and other cities around the world on that day. To get flyers on the plans, endorse them, help organize transportation from our area, or offer financial support, go to their website at [http://www.internationalanswer.org](http://www.internationalanswer.org).

**LOCAL ACTION**

We are fortunate to have a number of organizations in our own community—ICPJ, Ann Arbor Area Committee for Peace and others. Weekly Vigils are scheduled for the Federal Building each Tuesday at noon. It is likely that other rallies will be scheduled in cooperation with the March 15th gathering in Washington. Anti-War Action, a student group plans a March 5th Student Strike, “Books Not Bombs”. Information on their website <antiwar@umich.edu>. And in event the U.S. does open hostilities, a number of churches will be open for meditation and a vigil is planned for 6 p.m. at the Federal Building. Our office seeks to keep abreast of such plans so we can direct people to the current action. Call ICPJ at 663-1870.

**A Rational Against Going To War With Iraq**

Church for Middle East Peace and the Win Without War group offer a concise rational for countering the arguments coming from the White House for attacking Iraq.

1) We can contain and disarm Saddam Hussein without invading Iraq. As Secretary of State Colin Powell stated in his February 5th speech to the UN Security Council, UN weapons inspectors were remarkably effective in the 1990s in dismantling Iraq’s nuclear weapons program. Continued tough inspections, along with cooperation from U.S. intelligence agencies, is the most prudent and effective way to neutralize whatever threat Saddam Hussein poses. If the weapons inspectors need more tools to do the job, let’s give them every tool they need. Better to have 1,500 inspectors in Iraq than 150,000 American soldiers. We don’t need to go to war to protect ourselves.

2) By going to war with Iraq, the U.S. will be taking significant and unnecessary risks:
   - As the CIA pointed out months ago, Iraq poses no imminent threat to its neighbors or to the United States unless we invade, at which point Saddam has nothing to lose and might use whatever weapons he has at his disposal.
   - A U.S. invasion of Iraq plays into the hands of Osama bin Laden and other terrorists who

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*"...there may still be two superpowers on the planet: the United States and world public opinion."
—NY Times, Feb. 17, 2003*
A Unique Opportunity In Our Own Back Yard:

**Ending Israel’s Occupation of Palestine:**

What Role for Americans?

A conference organized by Friends of Sabeel-Michigan and cosponsored with ICPJ and a number of other religious and human rights groups

**March 14-15, 2003**

**St. Mary’s Orthodox Church**

18200 Merriman Rd. - Livonia

(between 6 and 7 Mile roads)

What is happening to Israelis, Palestinians and Americans because of the occupation?

How the occupation is maintained?

Analysis of US policy and how it needs to change to create lasting peace.

Displays include: Teaching resources, videos and books, Peace and human rights groups

Presenters include:

Rev. Canon Naim Ateek (Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center, Jerusalem); Rev. Dr. Don Wagner (Northpark University, Chicago); Ali Abunimeh (*The Electric Intifada*, media critic); Cindy Levitt (*Not in My Name*, Chicago); Rev. Richard Toll (National Chairman, Friends of Sabeel—North America); Phyllis Bennis (Institute for Policy Studies, Washington); U.S. Rep. John Conyers (Detroit, Michigan); Dr. May Seikaly (Middle East Studies, Wayne State U.); Representatives of the International Solidarity Movement, Christian Peacemaker Team and the Holy Land Ecumenical Foundation.

Cost: $60 ($40 students) includes Friday night banquet, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and educational materials, video.

For further information or to offer your help, call (503) 653-6625 or email kelleysfcc1@aol.com, or See the web site: www.sabeel.org, or

In our area call Elizabeth Barlow (734) 665-5573

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**First Hand Report from Iraq**

—by Rudy Simons, longtime Detroit leader and advocate for justice and peace.

Fear is the deep color of Iraq today. Fear that bombs may start to drop at any moment. Unfortunately that fear is all too justified in the present climate when the drums of war continue to pound ceaselessly in Washington.

In early January, Bishop Thomas Gumbleton and I were two of a nine person delegation in Baghdad and Basra where we joined seven American women in flying the banner of a courageous group of our fellow citizens who call themselves *September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrow,* each of whose fifty or so members lost one or more loved ones in the horrific events of September 11, 2001. (The phrase “peaceful tomorrows” comes, quite appropriately, from the pen of Re. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Four of the women in our delegation were members of the Peaceful Tomorrows organization, two from Massachusetts and one each from New York City and Council Bluffs, Iowa. Two are nurses, one a documentary filmmaker, and the fourth a senior at Creighton University in Omaha. They had lost, respectively, a brother, two sisters and an uncle.

The objective of our group was to meet face-to-face and share personal stories with ordinary Iraqi citizens who had also lost one or more families as a direct result of war or the terrible consequences of twelve years of strangling economic sanctions which have cost the lives of more than a million Iraqi civilians. (That figure, by the way, was issued formally by UNESCO as long as seven years ago! It takes no account of the vast numbers of lives lost since that time.)

Indeed we did meet with many such families. It is certainly not difficult. Virtually every family...
Iraq Report, continued from p. 9

seems to have suffered the loss of one (or many) loved ones in such a way since the Gulf War. On many occasions these heartbreaking stories were exchanged, along with tears and warm embraces of understanding and empathy. These often emotional interactions exemplified the most fundamental fund of experiences that touch human beings deeply whenever war and terror raise their ugly heads and fall directly upon the innocent.

As we had hoped, we were able to visit several large hospitals, the University of Baghdad, a primary school and a water treatment facility alongside the Tigris River which had been put back into functioning by a volunteer corps of Americans affiliated with Veterans for Peace.

In addition we visited mosques and churches. And we walked the streets among the people unattended by a government ‘minder’. We were luncheon guests of the Archbishop Kassab of Basra, and we had a two-hour meeting with Dennis Halliday, the former head of the UN’s failed Oil-for-Food program in Iraq. It was he who, in the late ‘90s, resigned his important position in protest against the calamitous results he had witnessed first hand, as did his successor, Hans Von Sponeck, two years later for similar reasons.

We hear once again about the high levels of unemployment throughout the country, and we were told that nowadays new parents ask the attending doctor, following a birth, not “Is it a boy or a girl?” Instead they inquire, “Is it normal or abnormal?” Depleted uranium from U.S. bombs continues to take a toll.

Yet with all the suffering of ordinary Iraqis on so many levels, we were greeted unfailingly with warmth, friendship and the clear understanding that we and our government are two entirely different entities.

Upon our return, we readily acknowledge that our basic message is no different than the one we heard from those with whom we had an opportunity to engage: Let there be no war. End the sanctions now. Let the UN inspectors and honest diplomacy find the path to peace between our two nations.

— with thanks to the newsletter of the Peace and National Priorities Center of Oakland County.

REJ Welfare Simulations

Racial and Economic Justice Taskforce continues to open people’s eyes to the challenges of living on welfare. Recently, we had the pleasure of organizing a simulation for a Michigan Head Start conference in Dearborn.

Although we repeatedly see the power of the simulation, this particular event drove the point home once more. One of the strengths of the activity is that it is truly a group activity. Participants confront the challenges of long lines to get to the caseworker and getting lost in a busy, confusing, and chaotic system.

This group dynamic works best when we have 40 to 60 participants: enough to demonstrate the chaos but few enough so that people can effectively participate.

In Dearborn, however, we faced a conference crowd that didn’t want to get out of bed in the morning, so instead of the 40 that signed up, we had a group of less than 20. We were skeptical. Would 20 people be enough? What would happen to the lines? Would people still face the isolation and confusion that a larger simulation demonstrates?

Despite our concerns and the challenges of working with a smaller crowd, the simulation was a success. Even with the smaller group, the participants faced many of the same emotions and frustrations that they see in a full-scale simulation.

One participant noted that it seemed the “system set me up to fail.” What inspired me, however, was seeing this group of Head Start workers leave the simulation more dedicated to helping their clients succeed.

If you would like to arrange a welfare simulation for your class, congregation, or other group, or if you would like to volunteer in our March 26 simulation at Stone School, please call the ICPJ office at (734) 663-1870.

Women’s International Day--March 8

Women will join in a March on the White House on March 8. If you are interested in going and want bus information, check www.codetink4peace.org

Norman Schwarzkopf Wants To Give Peace A Chance

Norman Schwarzkopf, the general who commanded U.S. forces in the 1991 Gulf War says he hasn’t seen enough evidence to convince him that his old comrades Dick Cheney, Colin Powell and Paul Wolfowitz are correct in moving toward a new war now. He thinks U.N. inspections are still the proper course to follow. He’s worried about the cockiness of the U.S. war plan, and even more by the potential human and financial costs of occupying Iraq.

Tom Ricks, Washington Post Staff Writer, 1/28/03. P. CO1
Commemorate King’s Life On the 35th Anniversary of his Assassination
2003 Unity Rally for Racial Justice
Oppose “the giant triplets of racism, extreme materialism, and militarism.”

Now is the time to rededicate ourselves to King’s vision of dedicated action for justice and peace as we face:
- Attacks on Affirmative Action that threaten to resegregate higher education
- A federal government that increasingly robs social programs to offer tax cuts to the rich
- A looming war in Iraq that will further deplete resources for social programs.

April 4, 7:00 P.M.
Location To Be Announced
For more information, contact ICPJ at 663-1870 or icpj@umich.edu

Nicaragua Coninued from page 4

On the political scene, the scandals about Aleman and the corruption of his government made the news daily. There were protests in all the major cities, supporting the arrest of Aleman, his family, and other political cronies.

The Sandinistas are still very strong, especially on the local level. There were fiestas to memorialize those who died during the Revolution. People are aware of the impact of US government policy and IMF policy on their lives.

Many people are now working in the maquiladoras, making clothing with brand names such as Donn Kenny and Bugle Boy, for 23 cents an hour. They are often required to work overtime and are not paid for the additional hours. People are working as much as 12 hours per day, 6 days per week to earn SUS50 per month. People also state they get only one 15 minute to half an hour break per day. They are searched going into and out of bathrooms. There are sometimes video cameras in the bathrooms, as well as throughout the factories.

The supervisors hit people with sticks when they are not meeting production expectations. People told me the factories were owned by Koreans and, at times, did not seem to realize the connections with US corporations and conglomerates.

Sexual tourism is beginning to make inroads into Nicaragua. In Granada, I saw several gringo men in their 50’s or 60’s with young girls who appeared to be 12 - 14 years old. The teachers at my school told me of one male student in his late 60’s, who was there while I was, who was seen taking young girls into his hotel room. They were extremely upset that they had to continue to teach him, but felt they had no way to confront him on this.

There are many projects in need of funding in Nicaragua. There is one agricultural high school, with students who board at the school that is greatly in need of new plumbing (the total cost would only be $300) and school supplies and clothing for the students. If you are interested in helping in any of these projects, please contact me at maureenknighton@hotmail.com
Bread for the World's 2003 Offering of Letters

Here's something you can do NOW. And something you can make happen later!

Act Now! Contact your members of Congress and urge them to cosponsor and provide full funding for the Millennium Challenge Account.

See opposite page.

Then--start mobilizing your faith community to join this year’s Offering of Letters to Congress—supporting this effort. ICPJ now has a copy of the Offering of Letters Kit. Come in and check it out!

Art Simon, founder and president emeritus of Bread for the World, has written a new book on the struggle to live faithfully in a consumer-driven society. It is written from a Christian point of view, but the dilemma it poses is one familiar to those in other faith communities. He notes, “Jesus said some pretty stark things about money and poverty………..I try to look honestly at both the cost and the joy of following Christ. I want people to find the joy. God wants us to reach for so much more than the American dream.”

See the copy in ICPJ’s library as a possibility for serious personal or group study.

No War - continued from p. 8

will use it as an opportunity to recruit and attack. It would be the greatest terrorist recruitment tool that Osama bin Laden could imagine.

- Experts warn that an attack on Iraq could seriously undermine and destabilize regimes in the region whose populations are overwhelmingly opposed to an invasion. One of these, Pakistan, has nuclear weapons.

3) A military invasion would increase human rights abuses and exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Iraq. The Bush administration has asserted that toppling Saddam Hussein through force is justified in part because of the regime’s atrocious human rights record. However, the possible use of weapons of mass destruction during wartime endangers thousands of Iraqi civilians, and military strikes on Iraq would further destroy the country’s infrastructure and spur refugee flows.

4) The cost of a war with Iraq is estimated at $100 to $200 billion. These estimates do not include the cost of rebuilding Iraq after a war nor take into account the economic losses during wartime incurred by countries around the world. The U.S. has suffered the worst revenue decline since World War II and, after four years of surpluses, the federal government will run a $157 billion deficit this year. Rather than spending millions on war in Iraq, the U.S. should devote more resources to cooperative threat reduction programs, international peacekeeping, health care, the environment and education.

29th Washtenaw County CROP Hunger Walk

Hunger is too often the price of a world at war or under threat of war!

We can help to make a difference!

Planning for this year’s CROP Walk will begin this Spring, but the date and location will be available at the ICPJ’s office by mid-March. Check with Russ or Grace at 663-1870 and get it on the calendar for your faith community and your home.

We Need Help To Make A CROP Walk Happen!!

If you would like to help make the Walk a success by serving on the planning and coordinating committee, please contact Grace or Russ soon at ICPJ at 663-1870. There is work to do in recruiting, planning logistics, publicity, and education.

Bread For The World Meeting March 22

--Bob Krzewinski, Bread for World Coordinator

There is truly quite a bit going on in the way of hunger and poverty legislation in Congress at the present time, including welfare reform, food stamps, international assistance and growing hunger in Africa. To that extent the local chapter of Bread For The World in continuing to meet on a local basis with the next meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 22nd, 10am, at the ICPJ office on the corner of Hill and Tappan in Ann Arbor and anyone interested in helping end hunger is invited to attend. Other ways of helping out is checking out the Bread For The World web page (www.bread.org), making 1-3 calls a year to Congress through a telephone tree system or receiving a periodic local e-mail newsletter. For more information on Bread For The World, contact Bob Krzewinski at 734/487-9058, or e-mail at wolverbob@cs.com.
Peace InSight
Cable Channel 17 -- March 2003
Tuesday 7:00 pm, Friday 6:00 pm, Sunday 2:00 pm

#759 Tues. 3/4  7:00 pm,  Fri. 3/7  6:00 pm,  Sun.3/9  2:00 pm
“Can We Pay for Prescription Drugs?”
Program sponsored by Huron Valley Gray Panthers.

#760 Tues. 3/11  7:00 pm,  Fri.3/14  6:00 pm,  Sun. 3/16  2:00 pm
“Confirmation Process for Federal Judges”
Program sponsored by Huron Valley Gray Panthers.

#753 Tues 3/18  7:00 pm,  Fri.3/21  6:00 pm,  Sun. 3/23  2:00 pm
Subject to be Announced.

#754 Tues3/25  7:00 pm,  Fri. 3/28  6:00 pm,  Sun. 3/30  2:00 pm
“Anti-Iraq-War Conference”
Conference sponsored by U. of M. students opposing war on Iraq.

Conscientious Objectors
Today many persons of faith are considering declaring themselves conscientious objectors. The Ann Arbor Friends Center has begun a CO Working Group that offers accurate information and help in thinking through this option. For information, contact Su Hansen, 971-1035.

Save This!  Use This!
Contacting Those Who Represent Us In Washington:
Note: Calls and mail to Michigan offices arrive quicker and are cheaper than to Washington. Messages are promptly relayed by staff.

Sen. Carl Levin
477 Michigan,  Rm 1860 or % U.S. Senate
Detroit, MI  48228  Washington D. C. 20510
1-313 226 6020  1-202-224-6221
email: senator@levin.senate.gov  fax: 202 224 1388

Sen Debbie Stabenow
280 E. Saginaw or % U.S. Senate
E. Lansing, MI  48823  Washington, D. C. 20510
1-517-203-1760  1-202-224-4822
email: senator@stabenow.senate.gov  fax: 202 224 2822

Rep. John Dingell
5465 Shafer Rdor % U.S. House of Representatives
Dearborn, MI  48126  Washington, D. C. 20515
1-313—846-1276  1-202-225-4071
email: public.dingell@mail.house.gov  fax: 202  226 0371

President George W. Bush
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, D.C.  20500
1-202-456-1414
email: president@whitehouse.gov

Secretary of State Colin Powell
2201 C St., NW Washington, DC,  20520
1-202-647-4000
email: secxretary@state.gov

Submission deadline for the next Newsletter:
Wed., April 16
Copy submitted on a “Mac” disc saves us lots of time

Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice
Steering Committee
Second Tuesday 11:00 a.m.
Memorial Christian Church
730 Tappan at Hill

Task Force
Meeting Schedule
Disarmament Working Group
Fri., Mar. 7, 21   April 4, 25
11:45 a.m.   ICPJ office

Racial & Economic Justice Task Force
Thurs.,Mar. 13, 27, Apr. 10, 24
12:00 Noon-1:30 pm
ICPJ Office

Latin America Task Force
(Teacherly RCLA)
Tues.,Mar. 11, 25, Apr. 8, 22
7:30 p.m.
First Baptist Church, AA
512 E. Huron

Globalization Group
Thurs., Mar. 6
10:00 a.m..
ICPJ Office

Bread for the World
Sat., Mar. 22
10:00 A.M.
ICPJ Office

It's always risky to list names!
In our last issue we listed people who help us with our mailing parties.
We goofed!  So, for the record, we want to honor two others who help:
Carolyn Diem and Henry Herskovitz
Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice

Upcoming Events

Listed below are community events related to peace and justice concerns. Those marked * are meetings of ICPJ Task Groups whose meeting times and places are noted on page 14. Meetings are open; newcomers welcomed. If interested or for other information, call ICPJ, 663-1870.

Sat., Mar. 1--The Proposed Patriot Act II and Its Threat to Democracy*: Gray Panthers of Huron Valley. Showing of Bill Moyers NOW interview with Charles Lewis, Exec. Dir. of Center for Public Integrity in Government. 10 a.m.-noon at Senior Center in Burns Park, 1320 Baldwin. 973-5593

Sat., Mar. 1 Through April 5—Wisdom and Compassion--Art as Social Activism: Swords and Plowshares Peace Center and Gallery. Annual Art exhibit at the Peace Center and Gallery, 33 E. Adams, Detroit. Gallery open Tues., Thurs. and Sat., 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (313) 963-7575


*Thurs., Mar. 6—Globalization Committee: ICPJ. Working on programs to help us understand and become participants in the shaping of globalization. 10 a.m. at ICPJ Office, 730 Tappan. 663-1870


Tues., Mar. 11: Women's Voices for Peace: WILPF. 4:30 p.m. in Halle Library Auditorium, Eastern Michigan University. See p. 2. 761-7967.

*Tues., Mar. 11—Latin America Task Force:ICPJ. Plans for participation in National Days of Action on Colombia, Apr. 10-15. 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 520 E. Huron. 663-1870

*Wed., Mar. 12—Middle East Task Force: ICPJ. Working to stop the rush to war on Iraq and seek justice and peace in Palestine/Israel. 7:30 p.m. at ICPJ office, 730 Tappan. 663-1870


Fri. 7:15.  All welcome. RSVP Nancy Taylor, 995-6803.


Tues., Apr. 8—Latin America Task Force:ICPJ. 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 520 E. Huron. 663-1870

Thurs., Apr. 9—Middle East Task Force: ICPJ. 7:30 p.m. at ICPJ Office, 730 Tappan. 663-1870

Tues., Mar. 25—Latin America Task Force:ICPJ. Plans for participation in National Days of Action on Colombia on Apr. 10-15. 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 520 E. Huron. 663-1870


*Tues., Apr. 8—Latin America Task Force:ICPJ. 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 520 E. Huron. 663-1870

*Wed., Apr. 9—Middle East Task Force: ICPJ. 7:30 p.m. at ICPJ Office, 730 Tappan. 663-1870

Thurs., Apr. 10—Racial & Economic Justice Task Force:ICPJ. 12 Noon at ICPJ Office, 730 Tappan. 664-1870

Tues., Apr. 22—Latin American Task Force: ICPJ. 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 520 E. Huron. 663-1870


YARD SIGNS protesting the rush to war are available at Common Language Bookshop, People's Co-op, the Ypsilanti Food Co-op, and Middle Earth.

About ICPJ

Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice was founded in 1965 so that congregations and concerned individuals could work together more effectively for social justice and peace. The work is accomplished by task forces of volunteers, with support from staff members and guidance from a steering committee composed of clergy and lay leaders from area congregations. Currently the working program groups are:

- Disarmament Working Group
- Hunger Task Force
- Latin America Task Force
- Middle East Task Force
- Racial and Economic Justice Task Force

All are welcome to join our work. There are no membership dues, though donations are gratefully accepted. ICPJ is funded by gifts from individuals, congregations and other groups. Contributions are tax deductible.

Regular Office Hours: 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Thursday; 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Friday.

Tel: (734) 663-1870  Fax: (734) 663-9458  Website: www.umich.edu/~canter/icpj  E-mail icpj@umich.edu

Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
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Face to Face

An old rabbi once asked his pupils how they could tell when the night had ended and day had begun. “Could it be,” asked one student, “when you can see an animal in the distance and tell whether it is a sheep or a dog?”

“No,” answered the rabbi.

Another asked, “Is it when you can look at a tree in the distance and tell whether it’s a fig or a peace tree?”

“No,” answered the rabbi.

“Then when is it?” the pupils demanded.

“It is when you can look on the face of any woman or man and see your sister or brother. Because if you cannot see this, it is still night.”

ICPJ’s 2003 Annual Meeting

Sunday, March 30
With
UM Vice Provost for International Affairs
Michael Kennedy
helping our look at our recent history:

Religious Sensibility and Secular Hope--
from Polish Solidarity to Global Terror
Details on p. 1

Did you know that there are some big changes at ICPJ’s office? See p. 3