

The Dove

Whatcom Peace & Justice Center 2010 Summer Newsletter



**“a heart full of grace,
a soul generated by love”**

By Marie Marchand, Executive Director

According to Martin Luther King, Jr., these two attributes are all we need in order to serve humanity. He believed that each of us can be great because each of us can serve. During my five years at the Whatcom Peace & Justice Center, I have met some truly great people. Kathy Kelly, Ehren Watada, Malalai Joya, and John Dear are among the more well-known peacemakers I have encountered. Then there are individuals who are less well-known, but not any less great, such as Conscientious Objector Agustin Aguyo, Colombian Human Rights Activists Yaneth Perez and Nidia Castellanos, and Chilean Willie Lopez who survived torture and imprisonment by Pinochet.

Finally, there are the boots-on-the-streets people with whom WPJC proudly partners in our local struggle for peace and justice; they (you) are too many to name. These are the Whatcom County peace activists who, on a daily basis, witness to the power of nonviolence as both a lifestyle and a strategy for social change. They embody hearts full of grace and souls generated by love.

WPJC is now eight years old. We started out under the leadership of Jamie K. Donaldson with the support of her Quaker community and activists from the long-standing Friday afternoon peace vigil, groups that still support WPJC. Some of the original founders serve on our board of directors.

2009 was a key year for WPJC. We jumped to a new stage of organizational development. While staying true to the original pioneering vision, we have grown into an integrated, program-based organization that is planning strategically into future. I think you'll be impressed by all that WPJC has accomplished. Of course, none of it would be possible without your partnership and support. **Thank you for being the heart and soul of this organization!**

INSIDE:



Financial Report to the Community



Peacemaker Profile



Honor & Service: Working With Veterans



Movie Review



Evangelism for Peace & Justice



International Day of Peace



WPJC Interns



WPJC Board of Directors

What do you do?



By Peter Drewes, Board President

“What do you do?” This is a common question people ask when they meet someone. Typical responses are a job title, student, homemaker, or unemployed. This typical response is convenient. If we took the question literally, however, the answer would be an extremely long, boring, and occasionally embarrassing list. But this list may be a better indication of what we do.

Try this question at your next party: “What do you do for peace and justice?” A rarely asked question. Typical responses are “Huh?” or “Hmmm. Let me think about that.”

If people do come up with answers, they tend to be the traditional peace activities: participating in peace events, petitioning legislators on peace issues, and donating to peace organizations, to name a few. However there is a vast array of more mundane actions, such as how one drives their car, speaks to others, spends their money, and resolves small conflicts-- not to mention the basics of politeness, courtesy, and fairness. These actions contribute greatly to the peacefulness of a community. Whatcom County is a relatively peaceful place to live because of all the peaceful acts by its citizens. Be aware of these acts, amplify them, teach them, live them.

Ask yourself, “What do you do?”

Board of Directors

Peter Drewes, President

Anjali Englund, Vice President

Holly Folk, Treasurer

Jaci Nicolai, Secretary

James Underwood

Sarah Covert-Bowlds

Rev. Joel Lohafer

Thank you, Dotty Dale, for four years of service on the WPJC board of directors! Your leadership has been inspiring.

Thanks, James!

A senior at Ferndale High School, James Underwood is completing a two-year term on the WPJC board. James brings thoughtfulness and wisdom to our monthly meetings. He has a special way of listening quietly to all perspectives, then gracefully summarizing and asking sharp clarifying questions that foster expedient decision-making. After graduation he will be attending Yale University on a full scholarship!

Welcome, Sarah!

Ferndale High School Sophomore Sarah Covert-Bowlds was elected to the board on May 11th as the new youth representative. Sarah will work to increase youth involvement in WPJC. At sixteen, she is already an international peace advocate! Last summer she traveled to Japan with a regional delegation to deliver a formal apology to the Japanese people for devastating them and their land with nuclear weapons on the 6th and 9th of August, 1945.



Nonviolent Leadership: Restoring Community

Windward High School faculty wrote the following about Marie's recent presentation:

“This activity engaged our students and provided them with an essential framework for positive leadership attributes to take into the rest of the curriculum and their lives. Community partnerships in public education that offer this level of expertise, relevance, and engagement for students are exciting. Marie inspired kids to be thoughtful and reflective on the topic of true, meaningful leadership.”

MAKING CHANGE

with sustainable stewardship



Financial Highlights 2009:

- Our annual income has increased \$22,000 since 2005.
- Our Fall 2009 Appeal raised \$8,125 from 95 households.
- We exceeded our 2009 budgeted income goal by \$8,600.
- **2010 Update:** As of June 1st we are \$4,000 behind our YTD income goal.

WPJC is a 501(c)3 Non-profit.
All contributions are tax-deductible.

*From the
Treasurer*

On Justice and Generosity

By Holly Folk, Treasurer

One would give generous alms if one had the eyes to see the beauty of a cupped receiving hand.

-- Goethe

Generous giving is not easy in a recession. In 2009, the nonprofit sector saw a 22% decrease in income. Yet, the Whatcom Peace & Justice Center, in bold defiance to national trends, experienced a 25% jump in revenue. This says something about the people who make our community so special. **Even during difficult times, you prioritize peace.** You understand that social justice is what will change our economic, environmental, and foreign policies. Your volunteerism and financial support have enabled us to expand our office space and increase our staff. We have greater outreach capacity to stakeholders, and our educational programs are flourishing. For example, we recently gave Peace Art workshops in four elementary school classrooms and through the innovative VOSN program, we are welcoming military veterans into the circle of peacemakers. **Your generosity enables us to build bridges across social and ideological spectrums, and to reach common ground in affirmation of our shared humanity.** This is true peacework.

Generosity is an expression of peace. WPJC comes to you four times a year with cupped hands to receive your donations in order to serve, plant, and build. We mail appeal letters every March and November, email one in the summer, and request donations at International Day of Peace. We have 100% giving from our staff and board members because we too believe strongly in this organization. The work we do together is critical.

While 2009 was a success, 2010 is challenging. As of June 1, we are \$4,000 behind our year-to-date budget goal. We need your continued support. Next time we send an appeal, please see the beauty of our cupped receiving hands and give generously.

BUSINESSES: \$2,800

FAITH: \$6,000

Bellingham Friends Meeting (Quakers), First Congregational Church, First Christian Church, St. James Presbyterian Church, Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Garden Street United Methodist Church, Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, Assumption Catholic Church, (In-kind: St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Faith Lutheran Church)

EVENTS & CO-SPONSORSHIPS: \$6,000

GRANTS: \$22,500

The Dudley Foundation • RESIST • The Posel Foundation • Community Food Co-Op • Abe Keller Peace Education Fund • United Church of Christ Neighbors in Need • Pacific NW Conference United Methodist Church • Angel Fund of the Whatcom Community Foundation • Pride Foundation

INDIVIDUALS: \$38,000

Joy Jerry Maggie Chris Russ Jayme Ellie Betsy Paul Sheila Shirley David Steve Susan Margaret John Robert Lynn Beth Philip Judith Robyn Robert Mary Ellen Lorina Nick Tom Mary Helene David Gloria Leroy Alice Tedd Roberta Kimberly Alfred Harriet Ann Michael Dotty John Edwin Russell Lucinda Linda KC Alan Susan Karen Frank Ann Allan Susan Sharon Rip Ann Steve David William Marie Ann Kara Gary Cindy Colleen Larry Peter Dana Mary Sheila Reg Rosalee Alice Gwen Arthur Peggy Tom Alfred Judith Woody Jennifer John Tom Patsy Catherine Margaret Tom Harold Jaci Andrew Jackie Jerry Bob Mike Teresa Thurid Robert Stephen Margie Paula Pamela Jeri Doris Andrew Darlene Elka Nicole Myron Elizabeth Lee Dorothy Nancy Patricia Kenneth Carol Lorene Richard Crystal Karen Michele Irene Merrill Lorene Deborah Jim Maggi Amy Gary Mary Ken Helen Fumio Jim Jason George Debera Rachel Barbara Anjali Kerry Lisa Lynn Kerry Ronda Ann Bob Lynne Amy Susan Sally Rosemary Donald Phyllis Holly Bob Richard Tim Carol Sharon David Jo Dianne William Kathryn Tom Glenn Elizabeth Jonna Julia Michael Nancy Laura Leigh Mary Harvey John Jeanine Judith Richard Don Janet Linda Gail Ron Harmony Loren David Libby Jean Anna Linda Eileen Sheila Brian Shantel Gavin Olesia Joanne Milt Will Natalie Ann Doug Diana Katherine Mary Michael Eugene Mary Colleen James Patricia Louisa Liberty Diane Julia Dominic Carol Bill Evan Lisa Doris Duane Margaret Barbara Maureen Cynthia Julie Glenn Eugene Alice George Ann Seven Dorothy Debi Dick Marcia Ruth Judie Marilyn Andi Geoff Janet Joan Karen Gene Ene Robert Laura Nate Chris James Nicholas Maya Patricia Ben Dee Caroline Ellen Janice Brooks Jim Andrew Rhett Kristin Krista Richard Nancy Don Daniel Lynn David Sharon John Angela Joseph Linda Margaret Lenore John Judith Bruce Barbara Dilara Leah Jeroldine Claudia Anna Sharon Sonia Gregory Rodd Margo Dianne Victoria Tim Christopher Carol Edwina Dan Dorothy Charles James Marlene Jack Don Ken Patricia Larry Janet Becky Julie Judy Jullian Kimberly Kathy Steve Yvonne Paul Becky Leslie Bill Jim Lynne Doug Leslie Karl Susan Linda Dove Jim Shirley Niel Charlene Paul Sheila Meredith Rebecca (and all who gave cash at events and therefore cannot be identified).



Honor and Service

By Gemma Veldey, Coordinator
Veterans Outreach and Support Network (VOSN)



It has been a meaningful year for me at the Whatcom Peace & Justice Center. After college, I volunteered to serve my country through the Americorps/VISTA national service program. It has been an honor to help develop a program of partnership with others who also serve their country. The Veterans Outreach & Support Network (VOSN) strives to unite members of military and peace communities around common goals such as enhanced community dialogue and public education about veterans' issues.

What drew me to this project initially was my interest in international peace and reconciliation. Last year, I received my B.A. in Peace and Global Studies from Earlham College, a small school founded by the Quakers in 1847. My major included a semester abroad in Northern

Ireland studying its history of civil conflict from a peace perspective. Those four months in Northern Ireland proved to be the most influential time in my college experience. My program director was an incredible mentor and friend, and it was he who ultimately inspired me to pursue a career in peace-building. I have utilized many of the skills he taught me during my year with WPJC, including conflict transformation, self-reflection, humility, and above all, listening.

Before I took this position I had not been exposed to military and veteran culture, so I had to rely on others to guide me. My first few months involved a lot of listening. I listened to veterans' stories about being in the military and in combat, and about coming home and trying to readjust to civilian life. I also listened to the stories of peace activists who chose the paths of Conscientious Objection and draft resistance, nonviolent protests and civil disobedience.

Gradually I came to the realization that peace activists and military veterans are not all that different. Both have strong opinions and ideals, are fiercely committed to their cause, and both, ultimately, want justice and peace for the world. Through this realization I was able to find some common ground between both groups and begin to build the unique alliance that is VOSN.

We are currently leading the effort to establish a Veterans Court in Whatcom County. A Veterans Court functions much like a Drug or Mental Health Court—it recognizes that many veterans commit crimes as a result of untreated substance dependency, post traumatic stress, and/or mental illness. In a Veterans Court, vets can be presented with the option of treatment rather than incarceration. Participation improves the veteran's chances of recovery. Recognizing the individual's unique context, the court operates from a framework of accountability and empowerment, not retribution and punishment. Veteran Courts also address jail overcrowding and contribute to increased public safety.

VOSN works alongside many other organizations concerned about veterans and peace, including the Veteran Outreach Center (VOC) at Western Washington University, Veterans for Peace Chapter 111, the Washington State VA, and the Veterans Advisory Board of Whatcom County. In May, we worked with the many of these organizations to co-host "Serving Our Soldiers: Military and peace communities working together," an important community dialogue that explored and affirmed joint efforts towards justice for veterans. Such partnerships are invaluable in building trust and collaboration to accomplish our common goal of healing society from the wounds of war.

Gemma Veldey is from Madison, Wisconsin. When she's not working for world peace, she enjoys traveling, reading, doing crossword puzzles and watching improvisational comedy. After her year of service in July, she plans to return to Madison to pursue a master's degree either in social work or dispute resolution.

Photo of Gemma with Iraq War Vet Evan Knappenberger.

Doris Kent To Join WPJC Staff

The WPJC Board of Directors is excited to announce that Doris Kent will be the new part-time coordinator of the Veterans Outreach & Support Network (VOSN) starting in July. Doris worked at Western Washington University for eight years as a health educator with Prevention and Wellness Services. She coordinated the Peer Health Outreach Program and developed the award-winning Crime and Sexual Assault Services program for victims of sexual violence and harassment. As a Gold Star Mother, Doris has dedicated her life to working for peace and caring for veterans in honor of her son Corporal Jonathan Santos who was killed in Iraq on October 15, 2004. "Doris has the skills and credibility necessary to take our veterans' program to the next level," shared Marie Marchand. "Doris is a visionary leader. She will have a strong foundation to build upon thanks to the program's current coordinator, Gemma Veldey. We are all very excited to welcome Doris."

Photo: The Bellingham Herald, March 2008.



Meet Some New Faces



Brenna Anderst- Intern, Newsletter Editor

Coming to this particular internship I wanted to learn more about the framework of non-profits and their roles in the community. The Whatcom Peace and Justice Center stood out to me because of its strong message of nonviolence. At WPJC I have been given so many opportunities to put my creative abilities to work while completing the newsletter. I am very excited to be a part of the WPJC team and look forward to more work in the field of peace and social justice!



Sheila Dashtestani- Intern

I have always been interested in peace and social justice issues, and I like the mission of the Whatcom Peace and Justice Center. I also enjoyed the events that were hosted by WPJC, and so I realized that this would be a great place for me to intern. As an intern I planned two main events and tabled with the Alternatives to Military Service program. It is a very rewarding experience!



Todd Hunt- Intern

I think it's important to educate people on alternatives to war because peace and nonviolent ways of resolving conflicts often aren't given equal consideration. As an intern at the Whatcom Peace and Justice Center I am working with several elementary school classes by giving short presentations and having the students make peace-themed art work for display on International Day of Peace.



Thanks, Lindsay!

In 2009, Human Services student Lindsay Knaus interned with WPJC for nine months assisting with office work and events including International Day of Peace. "My time at the WPJC transformed me from a student into a professional and an advocate for social change," Lindsay shared. "I was able to apply my education to the field and see the crucial need for social justice and equality in our global communities." After graduating in June 2010, she will pursue a graduate degree in Social Work at Southern Illinois University. *(She is pictured here with Malalai Joya, former member of the Afghan parliament, November 2009.)*

Evangelism for Peace & Justice: Becoming a Just Peace Church

By Marcia Leister



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
~Margaret Mead

The Mission, Justice & Social Concerns Board of the First Congregational Church began discussing the idea of declaring itself a Just Peace Church two years ago. For nearly two decades, the Just Peace Church program has been a grassroots movement of United Church of Christ congregations committed to corporately naming and boldly proclaiming a public identity as a justice-doing, peace-seeking church.

For me, the Just Peace Church movement is the basis for my growing faith and deepening spirituality. Just Peace represents a kingdom where everyone is welcome at the table, everyone has enough, security and basic needs are met, and abundance and vitality are the responsibility of all of us.

The movement traces its history to 1985 when our General Synod defined "just peace" as the interrelation of friendship, justice, and common security from violence. The pronouncement called the church to a vision of Shalom, placing the UCC in opposition to the institution of war. By declaring ourselves a Just Peace Church, the First Congregational Church's thinking, behavior, decisions, policies, operations, and visions would reflect this notion of helping birth and grow the kingdom of God right here, right now and into the future.

WPJC's executive director Marie Marchand agreed to help us think through this process and come up with an action plan. Marie offered insights into the nature of Just Peace and led us through a much-needed discussion. One interesting idea that surfaced during the discussion had to do with being "evangelistic" about justice. Declaring FCC a Just Peace Church would provide a solid base from which to be evangelistic for peace and justice. Our goal is to show how imperative it is to connect our spiritual lives to the issues of peace and justice. The prospect of celebrating this process within the church and the entire community is exciting! We look forward to partnering with the Whatcom Peace and Justice Center for the long haul.

Peace Maker Profile: Lisa Marcus

By Brenna Anderst

It takes a strong person to stand up for what they believe in. Lisa Marcus is just that, an individual with the courage to resist. Lisa has been involved with the Whatcom Peace and Justice Center for about five years now and has supported the peace movement for much longer. Talking to her, it is clear that she is passionate about what she does as a peace and social justice activist.

What is great about Lisa is that she does not care about what others think of her actions. In fact, she feels that if more people cared less about their egos “we would live in a much more peaceful world.” For Lisa, holding a sign in support of peace while others drive by or participating in anti-war protests is part of who she is. “I am proud to show others what I believe in, even if they might disagree with me” she says.

“Lisa’s dedication to outrageous public witness is awesome,” said Marie Marchand, WPJC’s executive director. “In a society where the silent majority is killing us, we need bold activists like Lisa to remind us of the consequences of our war-making.”

Some of Lisa’s creative protests include standing silently in a full-length burqa holding a paper mache baby splattered with red paint to depict the bloodshed of innocents in Iraq; walking through Wilson Library at WWU in an orange jumpsuit and black hood to bring attention to our government’s torture practices at Guantanamo Bay; wheeling around coffins draped with U.S. and Iraqi flags. Last year she was arrested at Creech Air Force Base in Nevada for protesting U.S. unmanned drones that have been killing civilians in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Lisa Marcus has dedicated her life to peace reform even when others tried to tear her down. She is a role model to others who may be interested in working for peace but haven’t been able to speak out yet. Lisa’s message to you is: “Look your fears in the face, stand your ground, and help us overcome our long lasting culture of war.”



The Power of *The Oath*

By Michael Falter

Those interested in social justice might be familiar with the work of filmmaker Laura Poitras, who was nominated for an Oscar for her stunning 2007 film “My Country, My Country.” Laura Poitras and Kirsten Johnson rightfully won the Best Cinematography award at this year’s Sundance Film Festival where “The Oath” premiered as one of those rare documentary films picked up for theatrical distribution. The power of the images, like the strangled beauty of the Yemen landscape, is reason enough to see this on the big screen.

“The Oath” centers on a Muslim taxi driver, now based in Yemen, named Abu Jandal. He is famous for one thing: He was Osama Bin Laden’s personal bodyguard. He is a magnetic personality, already interviewed on 60 Minutes and elsewhere. He provides us a first-hand account of life with Osama and the seductive power that he and Al Qaeda exercise over young men, and the struggle to leave and regain his life—looking forward to a future with his family.

It begins with a scene of Abu Jandal talking with his young son, who, when gently queried, claims he too wants to be a jihadist “like his father.” How does a man who has taken an oath of fealty to destroy without asking questions retreat and embrace life again?

The other central figure here is Abu Jandal’s brother-in-law, Salim Hamdan, who had been invited into the inner circle of Osama’s security detail and became the leader’s driver. In November 2001, Hamdan was captured by US forces and detained at Guantanamo Bay. It is his name that appears in Hamdan vs. Rumsfeld, the slap heard around the world when the US Supreme Court denied the expansive powers sought by the Bush administration.

This film brings to light the humanity behind the people in Iraq. Those unfamiliar with the story and the outcome of Hamdan’s trial will appreciate Poitras’ structured, suspenseful film. Those familiar will walk away with a greater appreciation for the human face of terrorism, and many indelible images from the head, heart and camera of Laura Poitras.

Michael Falter is Program Director of Pickford Film Center, adjunct faculty at Whatcom Community College, and Co-host of The Pickford Classic Movie on KVOS TV.



International Day of Peace

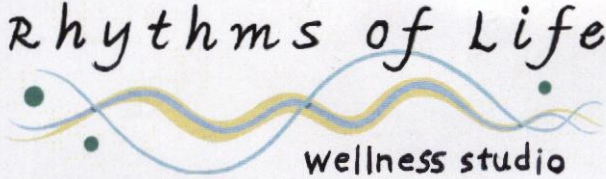
Tuesday, September 21, 2010 - **Rev. Robert Hughes** Keynote Speaker

In 1954, Rev. Hughes became the first executive director of the Alabama Human Relations Council in Montgomery. He invited Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., just 25 years old, to join the state's only racially-integrated organization as its board vice president. King accepted, and the rest is history. Hughes recalls his own strife during that time: "One night, I heard the horns blowing outside our house. We had just put our two baby daughters to bed, and I told my wife, 'Here's the Klan.' We looked out the front window and saw that long line of cars and pickup trucks. Some of them were erecting a six-foot cross in our front yard, and they set it on fire. They got back in their cars and slowly drove off yelling. The objective was terrorism, of course." Hughes also preached at Dexter Avenue Church when Dr. King was traveling. At the International Day of Peace he will share stories of hope and resistance from the Civil Rights Movement and his vision for peace today.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: Howard Harris Lifetime Peacemaker Award

The Whatcom Peace & Justice Center is accepting nominations for the 2010 Howard Harris Lifetime Peacemaker Award to be presented at the 7th Annual International Day of Peace on Tuesday, September 21st. Nominations should be emailed to WhatcomPJC@fidalgo.net and must include a summary describing the nominee's life-long passion for peace, his or her activities and accomplishments, and organizational affiliations (if any). Past recipients are Howard Harris, Rev. Al and Dotty Dale, Nick Mele, Doris Ferm, James Gillies, and Bill Distler. Nominations are due Wednesday, September 1st.

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at Cordata Pkwy.

Open daily 7 am-10 pm Open daily 7 am-9 pm

A new organization called Transition Whatcom sponsored an event in April attended by hundreds of people, called "The Great Unleashing." The focus of Transition Whatcom is how we can reduce our energy use while increasing our level of satisfaction with life. Its hands-on social networking structure provides a way for people with similar interests to connect.

Given the increasing tendency of wars to be tied to physical resources, this is a very important part of peace and justice work. Check them out at transitionwhatcom.org.

Peace Then And Now



Original photo taken October 15, 1969.
Photo by Jack Carver, Courtesy of the
Whatcom Museum.

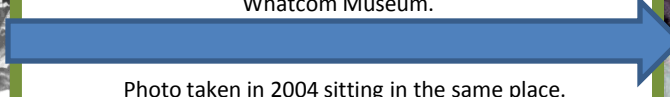
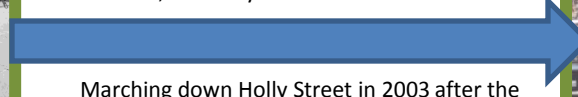


Photo taken in 2004 sitting in the same place.



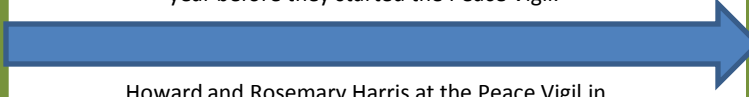
Marching down Holly Street in 1970. Photo by
Jack Carver, Courtesy of the Whatcom Museum.



Marching down Holly Street in 2003 after the
invasion of Iraq.



Howard and Rosemary Harris in 1966, one
year before they started the Peace Vigil.



Howard and Rosemary Harris at the Peace Vigil in
2003. Rosemary passed away in January 2009.



The Peace
Vigil in 1969.
Photo by Jack
Carver,
Courtesy of
the Whatcom
Museum.



Howard Harris
at the vigil in
2009 on his
92nd birthday.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

