



PEC Starts New Year with New Coordinator

Leslie Wolcott was hired as the new coordinator for the Peace Education Center in mid-January. She introduces herself below.

I come to the PEC, and Lansing, from Atlanta, Georgia, and via Reno, Nevada. I recently completed my Masters degree in English Literature, focusing on Literature and the Environment, where I was thoreau-ly educated on nature writing as well as social and environmental justice. I bring with me experience with various chapters of Habitat for Humanity, local and campus environmental groups, and several years spent teaching freshman English. I also bring with me a deep seated fear of snow and cold, so these last months have really been a learning experience! I still teach freshman English here in Michigan, and I write occasionally for the *City Pulse*. I'm excited to be joining the peace community and the PEC — already people within this group have been some of the friendliest folks I've met since moving to Michigan in August.



Tom Rico, Kathie Kuhn, and I recently made a presentation on "Peace and the Environment" at Lansing Community College's Focus the Nation conference. There I was able to articulate the connections I see between environmental issues, social justice, and peace. Oftentimes, wars involve one group of

people believing that another group of people—or a place—are worthy of destruction for some "higher" purpose. This implies, of course, that the first group, or culture, does not value equally the culture with which they are fighting. The result is destruction of people, culture, and natural resources, all of which might be preventable if each group of people inhabiting this world were able to see other groups as valid and worthy cultures. We here at the PEC might call that peace.

I'm working on updating the website, the office, the library, and anything else y'all think needs updating around the office. In the long term, the board has told me that they are interested in really updating the PEC to appeal to a new crowd as well as the group's long-term supporters and activists. If there is a particular forum or genre in which you think our message could be heard in a new way, please let me know! It can be pretty quiet here during the day, so please feel free to stop by and say hello and introduce yourself!

What's Inside:

Co-Chairs' Report: 2
Thanks to Mary Hanna: 3
Military Recruiter's Handbook: 4-5
Movies, Speak For Peace Tour,
and Library: 6-7
PEC & Peace Community Calendar: 8

Newsletter: Keep it Coming

Currently, we try to provide you with several newsletters per year. Sometimes, though, by the time PEC members receive the newsletter in the mail, the news is old. Beginning with this issue, we will simultaneously publish the newsletter in PDF format on the website (www.peaceedcenter.org) and in printed form, sent through the U.S. mail. If you would like to opt out of the paper copy of the newsletter, please email us at peaceedcenter@gmail.com or call the office at 517-889-1175.



Co-Chair Report from Tom & Kathie

Let's be frank. We have a third-rate President with third-rate policies, who is turning America into a third-world country.

George W. Bush says that history will be the judge of his presidency. Well, let us give him a little hint of what history is going to say: As the 43rd president, he was the worst president to serve in the Oval Office. His foreign policy has been amateurish and his domestic policy has been disastrous.

The only good thing to say about Bush is that his intentions have been fairly obvious. His administration, loaded with former oil industry hacks, used the 9/11 attack to illegally invade Iraq, the holder of the world's third largest oil reserves. With our occupation of Afghanistan – itself rich with special resources – this leaves only one country that we haven't directly infiltrated in the region: Iran, the holder of the second largest oil reserves. Everyone seems to know what President Obvious plans to do next, but nobody – including our peace communities – seems to know how to stop him.

In the meantime, back home in the U.S.A., the president has offered up a federal budget for FY 2009 that includes more than \$500 billion for defense spending, not including the supplemental spending needed to occupy Iraq and Afghanistan. Discretionary domestic spending for other programs is either frozen or cut. The defense contractors will get their hefty share of the federal budget, while the American people will do without. Our prediction – this is an easy one to make – is that Bush's Congressional enablers on both sides of the political aisle will allow this spending priority to continue, especially during an election year when no one wants to be seen as "soft on defense."

**Federal
defense
spending is
sucking the life
out of our
American
communities.**

Our friends from the environmental community, educational community, health care community, and elsewhere need to help us connect the dots. We continually hear the advocates from these sectors lament about the scarcity of resources to help their causes. However, the complaints in the press, at conferences, in personal conversations, only tell half the story and ignore the obvious elephant in the room, our massively wasteful defense spending.

Federal defense spending is sucking the life out of our American communities. As result, our third world status is itself becoming obvious:

- Nearly 47 million Americans without health insurance.
- A crumbling infrastructure, to the point that bridges are literally falling down.
- Good jobs and capital moving overseas, leaving us with low-wage jobs with no benefits.
- Worker organizing rights and pension systems almost non-existent.
- Massive housing foreclosures in a poorly regulated mortgage lending industry.
- Schools lacking proper funding and facilities.
- Maltreatment of veterans, who lack the services and care needed to treat their physical and mental wounds.

The Peace Education Center will be spending 2008 connecting the dots and, in very obvious fashion, pointing out the elephant in the room.

Yours in the Struggle,

Kathie Kuhn

Tom Rico

Co-Chairs, Peace Education Center



The Peace Education Center

855 Grove Street
East Lansing, Michigan 48823 USA
Phone: 517-889-1175
Email: peaceedcenter@gmail.com
Web Site: www.peaceedcenter.org

Coordinator

Leslie Wolcott

PEC Board of Directors

Kathie Kuhn, Co-Chair
Tom Rico, Co-Chair
Chris Singer, Recording Secretary
Elise Harvey, Corresponding Secretary
Jason Weller, Treasurer
Deb Bailey
Ruth Borgelt
Paul Brun Del Re
Kate Darnell
Quess Derman
Kate Durda
Phyllis Gloden
Maggie Hackett
Mary Hanna
Ivajane McCoy
John Metzler
Melissa Osborn
Becky Payne
Bill Petry
Lynn Scott
Tom Schneider

PEC Task Forces

African Affairs and Policy
Cost of Militarism Education Team
Middle East Awareness Committee
Peace & Healing
Youth and Military Counter-recruitment

Sponsoring Organizations

Edgewood United Church of Christ
Fellowship for Today
First Church of the Brethren
Greater Lansing Network Against
War & Injustice
Greater Lansing Unitarian
Universalist Church
MSU Mennonite Fellowship
Pax Christi Michigan
Red Cedar Friends Meeting
Women's International League for
Peace and Freedom

Affiliated Organizations

LCC People for Positive Social Change
Michigan Peace Team
Pathways Foundation
for Peace & Healing

Mary Hanna, Mary Hanna Thank You! Thank You!

Mary Hanna served as the PEC's Coordinator for over three years. She accepted a full-time position with the Michigan Peace Team (MPT). The testimonial below by Joan Tirak reflects the sentiments of the PEC board and those who worked closely with Mary.

Mary is one of the most creative, energetic, hard-working peacemakers that I have ever known. She has literally spent her life these past many years working to create a better world, and making it easier for others to become involved in doing so.

We often forget all the little things that it takes to coordinate an office or organization - the phone calls, the multiple requests coming from all directions, the ability to adjust to differing personalities and work styles, the need to be entirely flexible, adaptable and kind. Nor do we even think about all the time that it takes to produce the incredible artwork she does with posters, web pages, letters, and flyers.

Peacemaking has become Mary's life, and we know she has been proud to have spent part of her life as the Coordinator of the Peace Education Center. Our deepest thanks, Mary.

**Mary Hanna is
pictured at a
recent
MPT training
session.**




Military Recruiter's Handbook: "The Goal is School Ownership..."

The Peace Education Center reveals excerpts from the recruiter's instructional manual on how to infiltrate our schools

***USAREC Pamphlet 350-13**
 Headquarters
 United States Army Recruiting Command
 1307 3rd Avenue
 Fort Knox, Kentucky 40121-2726
 1 September 2004

School Recruiting Program Handbook

1-4. SRP
 a. The SRP is a well planned, prioritized, and coordinated effort designed to create positive awareness and interest in available Army programs among students, parents, educators, and centers of influence (COIs) within the community. It is designed to assist recruiters in penetrating their school market and channeling their efforts through specific tasks and goals to obtain the maximum number of quality enlistments. The SRP is also an important part of an integrated recruiting prospecting-lead generation program that ensures total market penetration. Teamwork at all levels is essential to the execution of the SRP.



The full handbook can be found at www.peaceeducationcenter.org

10-7. Lessons
 To summarize this section there are five lessons that apply to postsecondary recruiting.
 c. Focus on the freshman class because they will have the highest dropout rate. They often lack both the direction and funds to fully pursue their education.

10-6. Stop-out cycle
 a. There are certain times during every semester when, if students are going to drop out, they will do so. For those schools on the quarter system, the same principles apply, but the number of weeks will differ.
 b. Generally, attrition during the first year of college is higher than in subsequent years, and occurs especially at the mid-term grading period, at the end of the first semester, and again at the end of the second semester. Students drop out during this time because they are homesick, have to work, are out of money, or are in academic difficulty.

Chapter 11
Release of Student Recruiting Information
11-1. Solomon Amendment
 Establishes a policy whereby the military services are provided the same opportunities to inform postsecondary students of military career options as are available to other employers. The policy also identifies the actions that can be taken against any institution that has a policy of denying or effectively prevents for the purposes of military recruiting entry to campuses, access to students on campus, or access to student recruiting information (lists).

11-3. Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 2001
 a. Also known as the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.
 b. Section 9528, Armed Forces Recruiter Access to Student Directory Information, requires:

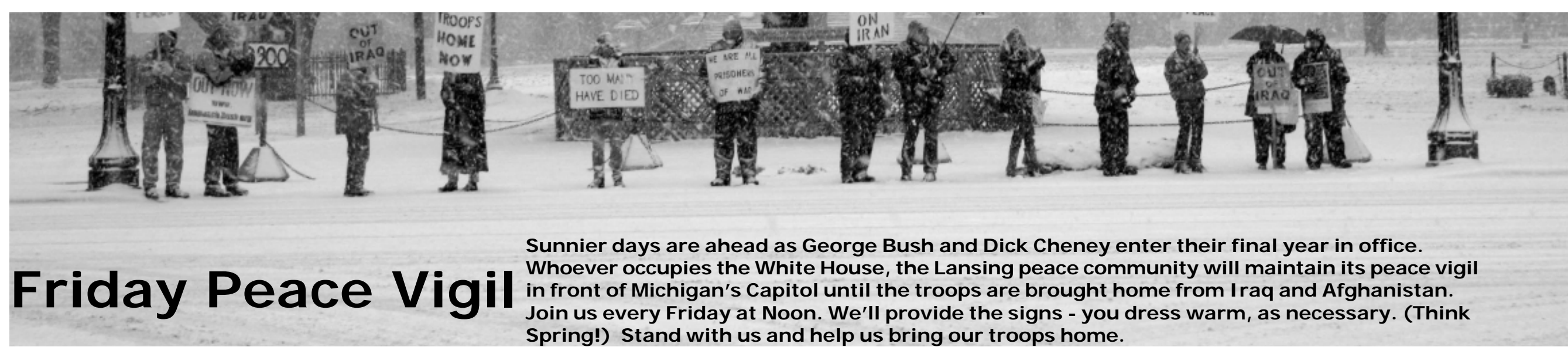
(1) Secondary schools to provide access to students' names, addresses, and telephone listings.
 (2) Recruiters be provided the same access to secondary school students as is provided to postsecondary institutions and employers of prospective students.
 c. Only exceptions to this law are private schools that can provide a verifiable historical religious objection to military service.
 d. Parents have the right to "opt out" by requesting that their student's name, address, and telephone listing not be released to the military services.
 (1) At the beginning of each SY, schools must provide parents with the opportunity to "opt out" having student directory information released to the military.
 (2) The military can be singled out, so parents can allow information to be released to postsecondary institutions and not to the military.
 (3) Due to the right to "opt out" recruiters will receive lists with less than 85 percent of the names from some schools.

"Penetrating Their School Market"
 Military recruiters take advantage of the public school population as a captive "market" consisting of our children who attend compulsory education.

The Goal is School Ownership
 The military' recruiter's goal is nothing short of school ownership. The military quietly invades our schools to own it and, eventually, the children in them.

Recruiters Seek Out the Most Vulnerable
 Like vultures, military recruiters watch for the most vulnerable students -- like freshmen, students who are strapped for college funds, homesick students, and those who are struggling in the classroom.

Recruiters Easily Access Your Kid's Background & Contact Information
 Unless a parent submits an "opt out" request each school year (SY), the military will have free reign with your child's information.



Friday Peace Vigil

Sunnier days are ahead as George Bush and Dick Cheney enter their final year in office. Whoever occupies the White House, the Lansing peace community will maintain its peace vigil in front of Michigan's Capitol until the troops are brought home from Iraq and Afghanistan. Join us every Friday at Noon. We'll provide the signs - you dress warm, as necessary. (Think Spring!) Stand with us and help us bring our troops home.



Gone to the Movies

@

Gone Wired Cafe

PEC's Mid-Winter Movie Schedule

(including one at MSU)



The Movement Against Apartheid in Palestine **March 11th at 7 p.m. at MSU's So. Kedzie Hall** **Hosted by the Michigan Peace Team** **and Co-Sponsored by the PEC**

Featuring Palestinian activist Mansour Mansour and award-winning Israeli filmmaker Shai Carmeli Pollak (pictured at left), this national speaking tour and film screening is designed to create a forum for the speakers to dialogue with the audience regarding peaceful campaigns, sharing experiences, de-escalation techniques, history of Palestinian non-violence, responding to military violence, and, most importantly, a venue to stress the importance for joint work among the Palestinian, Israeli and International peoples.

PEC Double Feature: **Alive Day Memories and Writing the Wartime Experience** **March 15th at 7 p.m. at Gone Wired Cafe**

Alive Day Memories, the first of two documentaries, is hosted and produced by former Soprano's star James Gandolfini, who allows injured veterans to speak about injuries they acquired and the ways that they have managed those injuries upon their return to the U.S.

Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience was nominated for an Academy Award and is a unique documentary that explores the firsthand accounts of American service men and women through their own words. The film is built upon a project created by the National Endowment for the Arts to gather the writing of service men and women and their families who have participated in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Where is My Friend's House? **March 25th at 7 p.m. at Gone Wired Cafe**

This 1989 Iranian film directed by Abbas Kiarostami follows a young boy as he attempts to return a notebook lost by another child. It was Kiarostami's first movie in a series about Iran's working class and is set in a rural northern Iranian town. Co-sponsored with GLNAWI, the movie is in conjunction with the Peace Read (see page 7).



Speak for Peace Tour

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is pleased to announce the Speak for Peace Tour: U.S. Veterans and Iraqis Creating the Way Forward, which will be in the Great Lakes region February 25 through March 1, 2008. The tour will help lay the foundation for building reconciliation between the American and Iraqi people. Only through a better understanding of the experiences of both U.S. soldiers and Iraqis will Americans see the value and possibilities for peace. The guest speakers for this tour, Raed Jarrar, an Iraqi, and Patricia McCann, an Iraq War Veteran, will give first hand accounts about the realities of the Iraq War and provide information seldom shown or heard in the mainstream media.



Wed., Feb 27

7:00p.m.-9:00 p.m.

MSU's Wells Hall, B108

Speak for Peace Presentation

Thurs. Feb 28

12p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Brown Bag Lunch Program

Unitarian Universalist Church

855 Grove St., East Lansing

Soup and Dessert provided; donations accepted for displaced refugees

PEC LIBRARY

CHECK 'EM OUT

Local peace supporters donate some of the hottest book titles to the Peace Education Center's library. The books below -- and many more titles -- are available for you to borrow from our collection. Please stop by the PEC office and browse in our library, which includes select DVD movie titles as well. For more info call us at 517-889-1175.

Palestine - Peace Not Apartheid

by Jimmy Carter

The Israel Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy

by John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt

A Call to Conscience – The Landmark Speeches of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Static – Government Liars, Media Cheerleaders, and the People Who Fight Back

By Amy Goodman and David Goodman

House of War – The Pentagon and the Dangerous Rise of American Power

by James Carroll

Body of Secrets – Anatomy of the Ultra Secret National Security Agency

by James Bamford

Army of None: Strategies to Counter Military Recruitment, End War, And Build a Better World

by Aimee Allison and David Solnit

The Great Lakes Water Wars

by Peter Annin

Retro Title:

The Power Elite

by C. Wright Mills

Introducing: The Peace Read

Join GLNAWI and the PEC at Everybody Reads Bookstore for the monthly Peace Read. The next meeting, on Thursday, March 13, at 6 p.m., will discuss the book *Hidden Iran: Paradox and Power in the Islamic Republic* by Ray Takeh. You're welcome to come and join in on the discussion even if you haven't had a chance to read the book. The April 10th meeting at 6:00 p.m. will focus on *Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi.

Peace Education Center
855 Grove Street
East Lansing, MI 48823

Peace Education Center Calendar of Events

February 2008

- 27** Speak For Peace Tour 7:00pm (see page 7)
- 28** Speak For Peace Brown Bag at UU Church

March 2008

- 5** Cost of Militarism Team Meeting at Everybody Reads Bookstore. 5:45 p.m.
- 6** PEC Board Meeting at UU Church, 6 p.m.
- 10** Peace and Healing Action Circle at UU Church, 6:30pm
- 11** PEC/ MI Peace Team Movie (see page 6)
- 12** Youth And Military Task Force Meeting at UU Church, 7 p.m.
- 13** Peace Read Book Group at Everybody Reads Bookstore, 6:00pm
- 13** Middle East Awareness Committee Meeting at UU Church, 7 p.m.

March 2008 (continued)

- 15** PEC Movie Series Double Feature: Alive Day Memories and Writing the Wartime Experience at Gone Wired Cafe, 7 p.m.
- 25** PEC Movie Series: Where is My Friend's House? at Gone Wired Cafe, 7pm
- 26** Youth And Military Task Force Meeting at UU Church, 7:00pm
- 27:** Middle East Awareness Committee Meeting at UU Church, 7 p.m.

April 2008

- 12** PEC Annual Meeting at UU Church, 4 p.m.
- 10** Peace Read Book Group at Everybody Reads Bookstore, 6 p.m.
- 19** Pax Christi Annual State Conference at Cristo Rey Church, 8:30 a.m. Registration

The weekly Peace Vigil is held every Friday at the Capitol at Noon. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the vigil. Signs are provided.