

Leave the legacy of your commitment to your heirs: When drafting your will, please consider making a bequest to THE OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS. We are a 501-c-3 non-profit educational corporation. All contributions are tax deductible.

JROTC

The Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) is currently replacing Physical

Education Classes in many of our schools. The flat out lying of recruiters has been exposed endlessly. One of the most common comments of boot camp drill sergeants is, "Forget everything the recruiters told you!"

Occasionally parents believe that military discipline will be good for their kids. But the discipline of, "Keep your mouth shut, do what you are told and follow orders," is entirely external and designed to make a thoughtless killing machine out of a human being. The only authentic discipline is self discipline which is capable of critical thinking and application of conscience.

Our militarism has destroyed New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. It has also rotted out the entire infrastructure of the United States. It is also a cancer on our educational system. Indeed every bomb which has fallen in Afghanistan and Iraq has fallen on our country as well.

SOME RECENT GUESTS ON WORLD FOCUS

SUNDAYS 10:00 AM
KPFK, (90.7 FM, LOS ANGELES,
98.7 FM, SANTA BARBARA)

- Congressman John Conyers
- Congresswoman Maxine Waters
- Congressman Jose Serrano
- Congressman Dennis Kucinich
- Rahul Mahajan
- Barbara Trent
- Dr. David Olson
- Aaron Glantz
- James Lafferty
- Tom Hayden
- Joyce Riley
- Kathy Kelly
- Ali Abuminah
- Brian Concannon
- Father Simon Harak
- Dahr Jamail
- Arlene Inouye
- Kevin Pina
- William Quigley

With gratitude to Clarissa Romano, the producer of WORLD FOCUS by way of Pacifica Radio (KPFK) and Adelphia TV.

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OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS

FOCUS: Peace Now!

OfficeOfTheAmericas.org

IT'S TIME TO REBUILD AMERICA

OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS TWENTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY

Please join us for this blessed anniversary event to be held on Saturday, November 19, 2005. We are proud to announce the following honorees:

DOLORES HUERTA

Dolores Huerta is currently the President of the Dolores Huerta Foundation for Community Organizing. She co-founded the United Farm Workers with Cesar E. Chavez and holds the emeritus positions in the UFW as Secretary Treasurer and First Vice President. She is also an active member of the Fund for the Feminist Majority.

As the legislative advocate for the Community Service Organization and the United Farm Workers Union, she was instrumental in passing historic legislation: disability insurance for farm workers, voting ballots in the Spanish language, drivers' licenses in the driver's ethnic language, Eligibility for Public Assistance for resident immigrants, the end of the infamous "bracero" program, and legalization for one million farm workers under the Immigration Reform Act of 1984-85.

In addition, Dolores has served in the following capacities: Political director, contract administrator, boycott director, arbitrator and picket captain. More recently, she held a six month position as a University of California Regent and is currently a Professor at the University of Southern California on Community Organizing and lecturing before students and community groups throughout the country and abroad.

Together with Cesar E. Chavez, they established the National Farm Workers Service Center which builds low-income housing throughout the U.S. and Farm Worker Communications who have established Radio Campesina stations in California, Washington and Arizona.

There are four elementary schools in California, one in Fort Worth, Texas, and a high school in Pueblo, Colorado named after Dolores Huerta.

She has received numerous awards, among them the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award from President Clinton in 1998, Ms. Magazine's one of the three most important women of 1997, Ladies Home Journal's 100 most important woman of the 20th Century, Puffin foundation award for Creative Citizenship Labor Leader Award 1984, Kern County's woman of the year by California State legislature, and the Ohtli award from the Mexican Government.

DANIEL ELLSBERG

Daniel Ellsberg was born in Detroit in 1931. After graduating from Harvard in 1952 with a B.A. *Summa cum Laude* in Economics, he studied for a year at King's College, Cambridge University, on a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship.

Between 1954 and 1957, Ellsberg spent three years in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving as rifle platoon leader, operations officer, and rifle company commander.

From 1957-59 he was a Junior Fellow in the Society of Fellows, Harvard University. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics at Harvard in 1962 with his thesis, *Risk, Ambiguity and Decision*.

In 1959, he became a strategic analyst at the RAND Corpo-

ration, and consultant to the Department of Defense and the White House, specializing in problems of the command and control of nuclear weapons, nuclear war plans, and crisis decision-making.

He joined the Defense Department in 1964 as Special Assistant to Assistant Secretary of Defense (International Security Affairs) John McNaughton, working on Vietnam. He transferred to the State Department in 1965 to serve two years at the U.S. Embassy in Saigon, evaluating pacification on the front lines.

On return to the RAND Corporation in 1967, he worked on the Top Secret McNamara study of U.S. Decision-making in Vietnam, 1945-68, which later came to be known as the Pentagon Papers. In 1969, he photocopied the 7,000 page study and gave it to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; in 1971 he gave it to the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and 17 other newspapers. His trial, on twelve felony counts posing a possible sentence of 115 years, was dismissed in 1973 on grounds of governmental misconduct against him, which led to the convictions of several White House aides and figured in the impeachment proceedings against President Nixon.

Since the end of the Vietnam War he has been a lecturer, writer and activist on the dangers of the nuclear era and unlawful interventions.

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JODIE EVANS

Jodie Evans has worked on behalf of community, social-justice, environmental, and political causes for more than thirty years.

In October 2002, Jodie co-

Become an Office of the Americas Sustainer or Member

All contributions are tax-deductible

Members receive OOA's quarterly newsletter and the satisfaction of being part of an international movement for peace and justice.

- Founder \$1,000 Patron \$500 Sponsor \$500 Donor \$200 Friend \$100
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Sustainers receive monthly mailings of OOA issues, activities and special events.

- I pledge: \$_____ each month quarter year other _____ for OOA's work.

Recruiters for Peace

- Please check here if you would like to work as an OOA Recruiter for Peace Volunteer.

Response for Peace

Enclosed is my check for \$_____

Please charge \$_____ to my Visa Mastercard AMEX

CC# _____ Expiration Date ___/___/___

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

- I would like to receive OOA's weekly email calendar. E-mail: _____
 Please send me information on your volunteer program.
 Please remove me from your mailing list.

OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS TWENTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2005 AT:

**THE BEVERLY HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
3084 MOTOR AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90064
Buffet Dinner at 5:30 PM
Program at 7:30 PM**

See response form on the flyer enclosed or call the Office of the Americas to reserve tickets for the dinner and/or the program: 323/852-9808.

founded CODEPINK with Medea Benjamin. CODEPINK is a women's peace group that has been organizing creative actions against the war and occupation of Iraq. CODEPINK is pushing for a reorientation of budget priorities in the US to focus on health care, education and housing, not war. CODEPINK now has over 100 chapters throughout the United States (see www.codepinkalert.org).

This spring saw the release of CODEPINK's new book, "Stop the Next War Now: Effective Responses to Violence and Terrorism", which Jodie co-edited with Nobel Prize nominee Medea Benjamin. The book is a diverse collection of essays from the peace movement's freshest, most dynamic voices, including Barbara Ehrenreich, Eve Ensler, Arianna Huffington, Alice Walker, Helen Thomas, Camilo Mejia and Jody Williams. After various visits to Iraq, Jodie is currently embarked on a "Stop the Next War Now" book tour.

Jodie co-created the first Dubrovnik Peace Conference in June 2000 and produced Shadow Conventions 2000, held in parallel to the Republican and Democratic national conventions. Every three years she co-produces the World Festival of Sacred Music.

From 1973 to 1982 Jodie worked on the campaigns of California Governor Jerry Brown and served as his director of administration. She also oversaw the Office of Appropriate Technology, ushering in break-

throughs in wind and solar energy. Between 1985 and 1990 she supported women candidates for federal office as a board member of the Women's Campaign Fund and Women's Political Committee. She ran Jerry Brown's campaign for president in 1991.

In the early 1990s Jodie opened the first environmental department store, Terra Verde, along with Tom Hayden and Cathryn Tiddens. Jodie serves on the boards of 12 non-profits including Rainforest Action Network, Dads and Daughters, Drug Policy Alliance, Bioncers, the Garden Project, Community Self-Determination Institute, 826 LA, the Circle of Life Foundation and recently the Office of the Americas.

OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS IN ACTION

OOA is honored to help organize **Readings from Voices of a People's History of the United States** with Howard Zinn, Anthony Arnove, Diane Lane, Danny Glover, Maria Bello, Josh Brodin, Leslie Silva, Marisa, Tomei, Alfre Woodward, Sandra Oh and Viggo Mortenson.

UCLA School of Medicine regarding **THE IMPACT OF THE WARFARE STATE ON HEALTH CARE DELIVERY.**

Keynote speaker at the Veterans for Peace Conference at the Shrine of Kateri Tekekawitha in Fonda, New York, **A CALL TO CONSCIENCE.**

A series of presentations in Pacific Palisades, Santa Monica and Topanga together with Academy Award winner Barbara Trent presenting clips from her new film **SOLDIERS SPEAK OUT** and footage from the vigil of Cindy Sheehan at Camp Casey in Crawford, Texas.

Keynote speaker at the reunion of **CATOLICOS POR LA RAZA**, in Whittier. This group was formed in 1969 to call attention to the needs of the Spanish speaking community.

Presentation on **LIBERATION THEOLOGY** to the staff and interns of the Los Angeles Catholic Worker Community.

Glendale College presentation together with Fernando Suarez del Solar on **THE WAR IN IRAQ AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE GULF COAST OF THE UNITED STATES.**

A strategy planning day together with the leadership of **CODE PINK.**

Special Screening of **THE OIL FACTOR** together with award winning filmmakers Gerard Ungerman and Audrey Brohy.

7 Dudley Cinema presentation on **TIME FOR A MORAL AND POLITICAL REALIGNMENT.**

Antioch University together with Sam Hamill, **THE POLITICS OF SILENCING, AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM OF SPEECH.**

RECRUITERS FOR PEACE MEETING at the Office of the Americas. Coalition Against Militarism in the Schools (CAMS) representative Manuel Zarate outlines program for counter-recruitment in high schools.

Ventura meeting **TO END THE IRAQ WAR** at the home of Frank Peterson and Lucy Duffy.

Interview with Steve Breyman at WRPI in Troy, New York on **VETERANS FOR PEACE.**

First Unitarian Church of Los Angeles on **THE PROSPECTS FOR A REALIGNMENT IN THE UNITED STATES.**

Book Signing of *Common Sense for the Twenty-First Century* at the West Hollywood Book Fair.

YES, IT IS TIME FOR A MORAL AND POLITICAL REALIGNMENT

As we rebuild America we must take into consideration all of the Americas and the rest of the planet. The warfare state must give way to the hopes and desires of our people and the entire planet. This requires respect and conformity to existing international law and ending

Getting duplicate mailings? Misspelled name or address? Please let us know so we can update our records.

THE COALITION AGAINST MILITARISM IN OUR SCHOOLS OFFERS THE ADOPT A SCHOOL PROJECT GUIDEBOOK

You may order this guidebook and learn how you can help through their website:
<www.militaryfreeschools.org>
or by calling the CAMS Office at: 626-799-9118.

U.S. exceptionalism. The future of life on earth requires this approach.

Now let's not have any finger pointing! That's what the accused says when the prosecutor presents the evidence. In this case the prosecutor is represented by the people of the world and the accused have overwhelming evidence against them.

THE GULF COAST DISASTER

The destruction of the great city of New Orleans together with much of the Gulf Coast is simply a part of the price of the Iraq War. Every year efforts have been made by informed people requesting more federal funding for the levies and infrastructure of that great city on the Mississippi River.

And these requests have been denied in order to pay for an unnecessary, illegal and immoral war. The denial of these necessary funds is also part of a larger ideology which has been festering for three decades. The ideology is called privatization. This ideology is based on a religion of profit for the few. As a result the entire public infrastructure of the United States is deteriorating. The public sector has been under ceaseless attack. We have only to look at the efforts to defund public utilities, social security, public schools, public parks, public highways, public sewer systems, public libraries, public universities and public hospitals. What is even more horrific is that this rigid and useless ideology of private greed has been extended internationally by way of so-called globalization or neo-liberalism

which is simply a reversion to the worst of 19th century laissez faire capitalism.

It is the public sector that has made life livable in the United States. It is the lack of public sector infrastructure which has made New Orleans and the Gulf Coast unlivable. Let the troops from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama be the first to return from Iraq. And may they be followed immediately by the rest of our troops to come home and save their country from the terrorism generated by privatization.

But friends let's not just point the finger, let's prosecute the malfeasance of office of those who have systematically defunded the public sector of the United States of America, let us prosecute those who have created endless unnecessary wars and who have extended our military outreach to over eight hundred foreign enclaves where the local people are begging us to leave. And this is being done as the infrastructure of the United States rots out. New Orleans represents a clear example of privatization and unregulated capitalism. The poor stand on their roofs and beg for help while the president flies over to give them a feigned blessing while FEMA lists Pat Robertson's Operation Blessing as a serious source of legitimate aid.

Add to this the fact that our corrupt leadership cares so little about poor people of color that we refused aid from many countries which were anxious to help.

May the thousands of dead in this unnecessary disaster be the occasion of our demanding an end to the unnecessary wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. And may we begin to use the tax money of the United States for the common good of the people of the United States instead of for destruction of innocent people abroad.

COLLATERAL DAMAGE

We are witnessing the collateral damage from the wars of Afghanistan and Iraq. Do you remember when Dr. King said

that every bomb that fell on Vietnam also fell on the United States. Do we get it now? Will we ever get it? The war in the Persian Gulf has destroyed the Gulf Coast of the United States.

RECRUITING FOR WAR

Our schools have been bombed into test preparation centers in an attempt to make robotized and standardized students who are highly trained and very poorly educated. The most common visitors to our schools are military public relations people who give candy to the students. This reminds me of the Guatemalan Military who would give candy to the children one day and burn the village to the ground on the following day. Our students are seduced into militarism in the following ways:

Would you like some money for college? It would be good for you to know that seven out of ten students can receive financial aid without going into the military. The vast majority of veterans actually receive NO educational benefits from the military, not one cent.

ASVAB

And now the military is invading our schools with The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), a test developed by the Department of Defense for military recruiters to determine the abilities of a student for military occupational specialties. This test is administered without parents permission and test results are released to the military without parents' permission. Students who take the test often don't even know that it is a military test. Students who appear to have an aptitude for military service are heavily recruited after the test is taken.

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www.officeoftheamericas.org
and Blase's Blog
blasesblog.blogspot.com