

already dire situation even worse. As a doctor I took an oath to heal. Allowing innocent Palestinians to go hungry while denying them medical treatment cannot possibly correct injustice or lead to peace."

Join Rabbi Arthur Waskow in his efforts to assist the Palestinian people as the Israeli government stops international aid, freezes Palestinian tax revenues and creates an acute shortage of medical and food aid. Palestinian children are already suffering dire physical and mental damage from this outrage.

New OOA Salon Series to begin this Fall

OOA is excited to announce that we will begin a new Salon Series this fall. Titled "The United States and the Politics of War: Understanding U.S. Policy in the Middle East and Asia and How to Change it", this current Salon Series will offer participants an opportunity to gain a more thorough understanding of the history, implications and practical outcomes of U.S. policy in the Middle East and Asia, with an emphasis on what concerned citizens can do to change it. Held on one Sunday a month in a private home, salons will be moderated by OOA board

member Nancy Hollander, Ph.D or OOA Director Blase Bonpane, Ph.D. Each session will feature a special guest lecturer, followed by a Q & A session, and be supplemented with recommended reading and viewing lists. Participants in the OOA Salon Series will gain a solid language for discussing U.S. policy in the Middle East and Asia. Our series will engage us all in important questions such as: What sort of U.S. policy do we want? How do we want U.S. policy to change? What would a policy of peace look like? And how do we make it happen?

For more information about the Salon Curriculum, a copy of our salon brochure, or to reserve you space, visit OOA's website or contact the Office today.

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.

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DECLARATION OF PEACE

OFFICE OF THE AMERICAS, together with numerous other organizations, is happy to announce The Declaration of Peace, a new campaign uniting organizations and individuals across the nation and around the world to take nonviolent action to end the US war in Iraq. We would welcome your joining us in this important campaign and helping spread the word with your friends and constituencies with whom you work.

To read and sign the Declaration of Peace: <http://www.declarationofpeace.org/>.

The Declaration of Peace is a pledge to take peaceful steps for the immediate withdrawal of US troops and to engage in nonviolent action if a plan to end the war is not established and begun by September 21, 2006 -- International Peace Day -- days before Congress adjourns.

Between now and September we will:

- Call on the Bush administration and Congress to end the war;
- Ask candidates in the fall elections to support legislation that brings troops home and cuts off funding for the war;
- Participate in activities leading up to September 21, including marches, vigils, and national phone-ins and email campaigns;
- Prepare for September with public Declaration signings, events, and nonviolence trainings to be scheduled across the United States.

If the September 21 deadline is not met, Declaration signers will engage in peaceful action in Washington, DC, at Congressional offices, and sites throughout the nation from September 21-28. In the spirit of Mohandas Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, some signers will be led by conscience to engage in nonviolent civil disobedience and risk arrest as a way to signify their principled opposition to the U.S. war in Iraq. Nonviolent activities will continue until the United States withdraws from Iraq.

Join this nonviolent campaign. Sign the Declaration. Forward this invitation to all your friends and send to any list-serves you feel would be interested. Together we can build a powerful nonviolent campaign to end the war.

To learn more and sign online, visit the website at: <http://www.declarationofpeace.org>

Contact: info@declarationofpeace.org. For those of you outside the US, we hope there will be international nonviolent demonstrations around the world calling for an end to the US war and occupation of Iraq similar to those which happened on Feb. 15, 2003 at US embassies and consulates, US military bases and other appropriate sites.

The Declaration has been endorsed by:

- United for Peace and Justice
- Clergy and Laity Concerned About Iraq
- CODEPINK
- Pax Christi USA

- Iraq Pledge of Resistance / National Campaign for Nonviolent Resistance Against the War in Iraq
- Global Exchange
- Peaceful Tomorrows
- Interfaith Communities United for Justice and Peace
- School of the Americas Watch
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

And many, many more!

THE SOUTH CENTRAL FARMERS

June 13th, 2006, a day of infamy in the history of Los Angeles. Sheriffs and LAPD arrive in the middle of the night to attack peaceful people who have created a paradise in what was a trash heap. It was a quasi-military action and it was entirely unnecessary. These people were given ten minutes to get out after years of hard work and development of the area.

Exactly what threat to public

SAVE THE DATE
Office of the Americas'
23rd Anniversary Celebration
Honoring
Harry Belafonte
Bianca Jagger
Jim Lafferty
Gore Vidal
SUNDAY, November 12, 2006
Wilshire Grand Hotel
Los Angeles, CA

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
 Family \$35 Individual \$25 Limited income \$10 Other \$_____

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: _____

Save a tree, get Focus as an email. To sign up, email PeaceCalendar@gmail.com, and write Focus in the subject line.

safety were these peaceful urban farmers? Why were their trees cut down? Why were their plots bulldozed? This beautiful oasis was developed 14 years ago in the wake of the uprising of 1992. Land was offered to the South Central Community by the City of Los Angeles. The land was broken, scarred, paved over. There were abandoned refrigerators, shards of glass, old tires, piles of rags and discarded furniture. The South Central Farmers took away the trash, cut down the weeds and got rid of the rats. They turned the soil and found that it could live again and it provided food for 350 families.

What a putrid example of class justice. The poor are those selected to receive the death penalty. The poor are those selected to die in unnecessary wars. The poor are those who fill our prisons with two million inmates as part of the military, industrial, prison, gun and warfare state complex. And now the poor are evicted in an act of treachery by the city of Los Angeles.

There is only one solution and that includes restitution. First that this land be immediately set aside as the property of The South Central Farmers. Second we must begin plans for many more farms in the City of Los Angeles. We need these farms so that these talented peo-

ple continue to grow crops that we will never see in a super-market. Precious seeds were brought in to produce crops that heal and nourish. Los Angeles will remain with a broken heart until restitution is achieved. (see: www.southcentralfarmers.org for further actions).

Call Mayor Villaraigosa (213/978-0600) and demand that the pledge made by the City of Los Angeles be respected. Call City Council Member Jan Perry (213/473-7009) and demand that she represent the people of her district. councilmember.perry@lacity.org

Call Mr. Ralph Horowitz the developer who initiated the eviction and insist that he negotiate with The Trust for Public Land and the Annenberg Foundation to make the South Central Farm a permanent symbol of the greatness of those who created it.

Mr. Ralph Horowitz
11911 San Vicente Blvd.
Suite 310
Los Angeles, CA 90049
Phone: 310/440-7878.

THE BUTTON

Certainly we have become numb to the reality of nuclear destruction. This shadow has been over the human race for 60 years and now the danger of its use is greater than ever. One single individual in Washington has the future of this planet in his hands. There are no checks and balances, there is no judicial review, there is no advice and consent of the Congress. Friends, we are living in a nuclear dictatorship. The President can eliminate hundreds of millions of people in a host of countries simply by pushing the button. This should never be the prerogative of one individual. Actually, it should never be the prerogative of any individual or of any group.

Suppose a nuclear explosion takes place in the United States. Will the president strike back at

a nation that had no part in the attack as he did after 9/11? After striking the wrong nation and having deadly radiation flow into surrounding countries, should we be surprised if they retaliate? The President's button represents a suicide attack on all of us. Even if we had the most brilliant and humane president imaginable, she or he should never have authority over such a button.

This is not a matter of brilliance of an individual, it is a matter of the future of this miracle planet. And if you don't believe it is a miracle planet, please show me one like it. Nationalism is killing us. It is archaic, fossilized, irrelevant and destructive. What does it take to awaken people to this reality? At this moment in history our every thought and plan must be made with the planet in mind.

Global warming is a reality but the greed for short term profit together with a failed and catastrophic war has Washington trying to divert our attention to issues that should not even be in the sphere of the Federal Government. Unfortunately what is good for profit is very bad for the globe.

Fully electric cars were manufactured and running well in the 1920s. But they were abolished by the oil industry. If this were not the case don't you think we would have made some progress with electric vehicles in the last 86 years?

We must take the quest for profit out of the world's drivers seat. We must take the button out of the hands of the president. And how do we do that? We do it by planetary thinking, the only kind of thinking that will make life possible for our grandchildren.

And we must turn our thinking into action with a new Declaration of Peace. The worn out eighteenth century nationalism in which we are currently living

assures us that our grandchildren will have neither life, nor liberty, nor the pursuit of happiness.

MASSACRE

This age will be remembered for its love of fiction. The Left Behind Series sells tens of millions of copies fostering a nineteenth century mythology about the end of days. Many readers fanatically grasp on to the myth as if it were reality. Dan Brown writes a book called "The Da Vinci Code" and people are saying, "See I told you so." Both books are legitimate, that is legitimate fiction. The fascinating element is how so many people have absorbed these writings as non-fiction. I think we can understand what is happening here. Many people are so terrorized by reality that they want to live happily in fantasy land forever. Just think how many hard fact, heavily researched books have come out regarding the war crimes our administration commits each day. Fear of the truth and the desire to say, "Oh. I didn't know that," seems to lead the way in this quest for fantasy.

And now Time Magazine uncovers a massacre in Iraq. We are grateful for this legitimate journalism. But we must watch for the spin. We can't let this go with a few privates and sergeants condemned as bad apples. The Haditha Massacre includes a series of flat out denials and cover-ups by the military, just as the Mai Lai Massacre in Vietnam or the Abu Ghraib torture scandal. These are not isolated incidents, on the contrary, these acts personify our policy. The atrocity was not simply Mai Lai, it was the sheer evil of killing

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three million people in Vietnam. The atrocity is not simply Abu Ghraib, it is the fact that torture was routine then and has continued to be routine now. The atrocity is not simply Haditha, it is fifteen years of butchering innocent people in Iraq. The invasion of homes and massacre of civilian inhabitants is a daily occurrence in Iraq. Many of these massacres are punitive actions like the punitive attacks on the people who lived in Fallujah, Some 6,000 civilians were killed during that November 2004 assault. This was simply not news until unimbedded reporters, at great personal risk, went for the facts and not the fantasy.

As we lost the war in Vietnam every massacre was declared to be an attack on insurgents. And the same is happening in Iraq. A massacre of civilians is reported by the military as an Iraqi offensive. That is why we continue to identify dead insurgents who are two and three years old.

We definitively lost in Vietnam and now our behavior in Iraq mirrors the deception, deceit and treachery that is leading to our absolute failure there. Fiction continues to be popular. But only non-fiction can make us free.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM ACT OF 2006

HR 4681

Prime Minister Golda Meir told us, "There is no such thing as Palestinians; they never existed." Then we see them thrown off their land, their homes bulldozed, their militants jailed and tortured. Then Israel refuses to recognize or negotiate with their leadership. And all of this happened long before Hamas was elected. As normal human beings Palestinians have resisted. The Israeli peace movement

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has recognized this reality for decades. The government of Israel is the aggressor. Aggressors are opposed by people all over the globe. And this is similar to what is happening in Iraq. The US government is the aggressor. The Iraqis are fighting back. Should anyone be surprised?

And now our pathetic banana republic House of Representatives has passed House Resolution 4681. This bill restricts humanitarian aid to Palestine. It also threatens to withhold portions of the US dues to the United Nations if Palestine continues to demand Israel's compliance with existing international law.

This vile piece of legislation designates territory controlled by the Palestinian Authority as a terrorist sanctuary and refuses visas to members of the Palestinian Legislative Council and Palestinian Mission to the United Nations. It also instructs the US Representative to the World Bank to oppose the continuation of humanitarian aid to Palestine.

Representative Betty McCollum has banned the Israeli Lobby AIPAC from her office until she receives a formal apology from this powerful "wag the dog" group for saying she is supporting terrorists.

Here is what Representative Jim McDermott of Washington State has to say about this bill:

"The World Health Organization sees a rapid decline of the public health system in Palestine. This bill will only make the

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