



# QUAKER BULLETIN SERVICE

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## Learning to use their powers of citizenship

By Willie Colón Reyes

**W**HY IS THE FOURTH of July a national holiday? Who is the President of the United States? What are the colors of the U.S. flag?

The initial lessons at a recent series of AFSC-sponsored citizenship classes answered some pretty basic questions. But 12 weeks later, another group of legal U.S. residents was ready to start flexing their political and economic muscle.

"Latinos could be the majority voting bloc in California," says El Primo Pablo Espinoza, coordinator of AFSC's Proyecto Campesino (Farm Labor Program) in Visalia, California. Proyecto Campesino helped organize the classes. "But, if we aren't U.S. citizens and we don't register and we don't vote, our numbers won't make a bit of difference."

To make sure that Latinos and other ethnic minorities do make a difference in the politics of Northern California's Central Valley, AFSC is participating in the Central Valley Partnership for Civic Participation.

The partnership is a joint effort

of numerous community organizations and two AFSC offices — Proyecto Campesino and the Rural Economic Alternatives Program in Stockton, California, which works primarily with immigrants and refugees from Asia and the Pacific Islands. AFSC, in turn, has contracted with the Organization for the Legal Advancement (O.L.A.) of the Raza (or "race"), a Porterville, California-based group that provides paralegal assistance in immigration cases.

The initiative is made possible in part through a two-year, \$286,000 grant from the James Irvine Foundation, one of the largest foundations in California.

"This effort involves much more than helping people become citizens," says Mark Miller, assistant director of AFSC's Pacific Mountain Region based in San Francisco. "It's designed to encourage politically and economically active citizens."

"There's a *de facto* system of apartheid in the Central Valley," Mark continues. "A tight-knit, largely white power structure dominates everyone's lives. Yet, nonwhites are close to be-

ing a majority in the valley."

The project's long-range goals include the formation of a valley-wide civic action league and a multi-ethnic Chamber of Commerce that would address the needs of minority-owned businesses.

A lot of the current energy, however, is focused on helping legal U.S. residents become citizens.

In Visalia, for example, El Primo and colleague Cindy Brito-Rodriguez

*Continued on page 7*



El Primo Pablo Espinoza teaching principles of citizenship



Students listen eagerly to lessons that can change their lives

## Organizing people of faith to abolish the death penalty

**W**HAT IS your faith's position on the death penalty? Most religious denominations in the United States have strong statements against the death penalty, yet few people are aware of this or support it with their voices and actions.

A new AFSC effort aims to help people grapple with religious issues involved in the death penalty. "We hope to determine which issues, arguments, or circumstances have an impact on people's positions on the death penalty. This includes what they might consider as alternatives to the death penalty and what they view as the religious community's responsibility on this issue," says Pat Clark, AFSC's national criminal justice representative.

The long-range goal is to encourage people of faith across denominational boundaries to provide moral leadership and a clarion call for the

abolition of the death penalty.

In coming months, the Religious Organizing Project will gather people of many denominations in study groups to focus on a discussion guide, and the video and book versions of *Dead Man Walking*. People are invited to become part of this by starting a study group in their own communities, using materials provided by the AFSC. Information from study groups will be used in a national multifaith conference (open to anyone interested) on Nov. 14-16, 1997, in Washington, D.C.

Pat Clark says people wrongly assume families of murder victims want eye-for-an-eye justice, "but many come to the conclusion that they don't want to lose their sense of humanity or project that kind of rage and bitterness." One outcome of the Religious Organizing Project may be to help religious groups

form networks of support for victims' family members, who often find themselves alone in dealing with a punitive justice system.

Since reinstatement of the death penalty the United States in 1976, more than 300 people have been executed and currently more than 3,000 people are on death row. Even so, the U.S. Supreme Court agrees the death penalty is not a deterrent to crime. Innocent people have been executed. People of color continue to be over-represented on death row. Furthermore, murder victims' family members are led to believe the death penalty will bring healing and closure, and family members of death row inmates, who are treated as outcasts by society, become invisible victims.

For information about the study groups or to register for the conference, contact Pat Clark at (215) 241-7130; e-mail: pclark@afsc.org.

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## Bearers of Hope

**Y**OU GAVE US HOPE, you gave us life," says Joseph Findling, one of many who were fed and given some measure of security by Quakers during and after World War II. In *Love Amid the Ruins*, a video about the Quaker feeding program in Germany, viewers have a chance to look back at those years and get an understanding of the gratitude and respect engendered by the work done by individual Quakers, the American Friends Service Committee, and Friends Service Council (London). Bringing hope to those who had suffered war and deprivation was a high calling indeed. (To order a copy of the video, see page 6.)

Hope still goes forth from the AFSC in the form of bread or rice to hungry people. And when those hungry people are considered by some to be enemies, as Germans were in 1945, our efforts to aid them also carry the hope of reconciliation. The AFSC raises funds to provide relief for North Koreans and Iraqis, while advocating for changes in U.S. policy to allow humanitarian needs to be met in ways beyond the capacity of any relief agencies.

We can provide many examples of this kind of giving, in which we use AFSC's resources to take action for the sake of others. The pages of each *Quaker Service Bulletin* are filled with such examples, and AFSC's donors are people who respond generously to human needs. But, we in the AFSC often find ourselves on the receiving end—we take hope from people outside the normal orbit of U.S. peace organizations, outside the orbit of empire.

Such was the case with AFSC's role at Abo-



**Lopeti Senituli (center), of Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific, led a group of marchers in a street demonstration at Abolition 2000 in Tahiti.**

lition 2000, held in Tahiti this January, where we enabled people from Pacific island nations to assemble in a worldwide summit on nuclear disarmament. (See pages 4 and 5.) They were the bearers of hope, as were our Tahitian hosts, who had organized to oppose the last round of French nuclear tests on their islands. Those protests, born of a people's love for their land and desire for independence, sparked a global revival of the movement to abolish nuclear weapons.

The Tarahoi Statement, issued by Tahitian participants and supported in spirit by the Abolition 2000 delegates, has a refreshing boldness. The statement, headed "barefoot on desecrated soil," begins this way: "We Polynesian peoples, without hatred or fear, call upon all other peoples of the planet Earth without distinction . . . to make people acknowledge that nuclear weapons are illegal and must be banned, for being a weapon for crimes against humanity, future generations, and the planet

Earth: our one and only mother."

Kilali Alailima, director of our Pacific Program, reminds us of the initiatives for peace coming from people in the Pacific: South Pacific nations created the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone. Samoa and the Solomon Islands took the lead in the World Court Project, calling on the International Court of Justice to rule on the illegality of nuclear weapons. The people of the Philippines decided to get rid of U.S. bases. Okinawans made their voices heard by referendum for the same cause. It was Malaysia that moved the successful resolution in the UN General Assembly calling for nego-

tiation of a convention to ban nuclear weapons.

This fall, Oscar Arias, a recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, will speak at AFSC's Annual Public Gathering. At that time, we will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the year Quakers all over the world were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. (AFSC and Friends Service Council accepted the award on behalf of all Friends.) Oscar Arias, who comes from Costa Rica, a little country without an army, brings a bold proposal to stem the tide of arms sales worldwide. AFSC will join him, along with Desmond Tutu and other Nobel Peace Prize laureates, in calling for a global code of conduct on the sale of arms.

Xavier Gorostiaga, economist and theologian from Nicaragua, was recently invited to AFSC's Chicago office to stimulate thinking about effects of globalization of the economy on poor and working people in the United States and throughout the world. Gorostiaga came with a smile and a question: "*¿Como organizar la esperanza?*" (How shall we organize hope?) Then he put forward proposals for more equitable sharing of the world's resources, a prerequisite to peace.

In the AFSC, we bring a unique gift to this process: We can be a two-way channel of hope. We can enable people in the United States, at the heart of world power, to learn from those on the periphery about the nature of the peace we should seek. Oscar Arias says it this way: "We must replace an outdated definition of military security that focuses on proliferation of arms and capacity to wage war with a definition of human security that includes the right to live without poverty, hunger, disease, human rights abuses, and war."

He speaks powerfully to U.S. residents at a time when our government is reducing aid to the poor in other countries and abandoning its commitment to the poor in our own country. Those outside the gates of material security and power often emphasize human security as the necessary element of peace, and they share the audacious hope that this can be achieved.

The recent presence among us of David Niyonzima, Quaker pastor and peacemaker from Burundi, is a case in point for all who met him. From whom else could we have gained hope that there could be forgiveness and reconciliation amid the ruins of that shattered society? And if there, then why are we not capable of being peacemakers in our own divided neighborhoods?

Let us take hope and heart from those who have most to teach us.

David Gracie, Director  
Peace Education Division

## ONE VOICE

by Kara Newell

## Which passport?

**H**OPE. It's what encourages and nurtures us through difficult and celebratory experiences. Ask ten people to define hope and you'll get at least ten answers!

It is spring. Early bulbs are blooming, some trees are budding, and the sun is warmer with every day that passes. Each year, during the Easter season, I take time to remind myself that resurrection and rebirth mark not only the natural world in predictable cycles, but my personal and spiritual life as well, if not so predictably. I have always been a hopeful person—I know my hope is a priceless gift from my parents, family, and community. Often I am reminded how priceless is the gift of hope when I meet and forge strong friendships with folks whose lives and influences have not been filled with hope.

Hope has a future, whereas despair is locked into a bleak now. Hope is secured in self-knowledge about a mission and purpose. Hope is built in loving, caring, respectful, mutual, and purposeful relationships. On the other hand, hopelessness is the ultimate dehumanization, a cynicism that devalues all possibilities for a future. There is, in the human spirit generally, an incredibly strong will to survive, even to thrive and grow. The natural world offers many metaphors for that spirit and will—the flower that grows through solid concrete comes to mind.

The American Friends Service Committee's work is wresting hope from despair, doing everything possible to plan and work toward the future with and on behalf of people who seemingly have little reason to hope. Yet, over and over, they prove that their will to find and fill a better place in their future is incredibly strong. As I have opportunities to visit with, hear the testimonies of, and see the shining hope in AFSC's partners, I am always humbled, taught, re-inspired, and made more hopeful, even in the midst of apparent social and political reasons for hopelessness. I am reminded that poverty of spirit has an open passport to travel at all levels of society. Hope's passport, too, is open to every person.

I encourage each one of you to find new hope this spring. There are many ways to do so. One is to make a real connection with and commitment to the future of a nearby person or community that may be unknown or nearly invisible to you because of class, race, or socioeconomic status. I guarantee you will be challenged, renewed, and affirmed in your life's purpose, whatever that may be. Remember, too, that hope spreads because of your interest in and support of the AFSC.

Hope. It is the future for all of us.

*Kara Newell*  
Executive Director, AFSC



## A personal kind of caring

# Friend-Ship Kits build ties across the seas

**H**MMM, LET'S SEE ... One pack of colored markers — check! One pair of scissors (blunt edge) — check! One box of crayons — check, check, check!

It's not an exact quote, but similar thoughts may have gone through Carrie Levy's mind as she put together her AFSC Friend-Ship Art Kit recently. Carrie, 14, an eighth grader at Westtown School, a Friends school in rural Pennsylvania, was one of several hundred middle and lower school students at Westtown who assembled Friend-Ship Kits as their midwinter project.

The idea for the kits came from AFSC's Material Aids Program, which is building a reserve of kits to respond quickly to requests for material assistance.

"People were really into it," Carrie recalls. "This was a more personal project. Usually, people give sweaters and other old clothes. But this project made you think about what kids in other places need — like crayons."

Carrie and her school chums had their choice of four Friend-Ship Kits: school, hygiene, sewing, or art. Each kit comes with a list of "ingredients," a plastic bag to put the material in, and information about AFSC. The Material Aids Program already has sent school kits to Nicaragua and Haiti, and hygiene kits to Bosnia and the Dominican Re-



**Westtown students delivered Friend-Ship kits to AFSC's national offices in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Thomas Moore (left) greeted them.**

public.

The project is aimed primarily at Quaker schools and meetings, and it has been met with tremendous enthusiasm.

A Friends school in Australia and monthly meetings in Juneau, Alaska, and Eugene, Oregon, are among those who have expressed an interest in assembling kits. In addition, Multnomah Monthly Meeting in Portland, Oregon, is taking on the project with an eye toward possibly starting an all-volunteer Material Aids Program regional office.

"The Friend-Ship Kits are designed to be from an individual to an individual," says Tom Moore, the

new national director of the Material Aids Program, explaining the project's popularity. "It's one thing for a class to collect 500 pencils, but

it's another thing to make a care package, knowing that it will end up in another student's hands."

That individual touch was certainly part of the attraction for Kelsi Robinson, 10, a fourth grader at Westtown School. "It sounded like it was a nice thing to do," Kelsi says. "And it just took a few minutes [to put together]." Kelsi and Carrie were part of a group from Westtown that delivered 300 finished kits to the Material Aids warehouse in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in February.

Peter Vermilye, principal of the lower school at Westtown School, is especially pleased with the Quaker focus of this project. "I'm a Quaker and I've wanted more connection between Friends organizations and Friends schools," he says. "The Friend-Ship Kits are appropriate for schools. Kids love collecting things, and they're happy to share."



### Kit Bits

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

**FRIEND-SHIP KITS** have become a popular service project at Friends schools, churches, and meetings. Participants have a choice of four kits: hygiene, art, school, and sewing.

The average kit contents cost \$4 to \$7, with lower costs if groups purchase the materials in bulk. If possible, \$1 should be

sent with each kit to help pay shipping costs. Please indicate if you would like AFSC/Material Aids Program newsletters and brochures sent with the kits.

For more information, please contact Tom Moore, director of AFSC's Material Aids Program, at (215) 241-7041 (e-mail: TMOORE@afsc.org).

## Warm clothing shipped to Russia

**T**HE AFSC SHIPPED 23 tons of warm clothing to Chechnya and Moscow this winter. A \$25,000 grant from the Joseph Plan Foundation paid shipping costs. The clothing was valued at \$90,000.

"This grant got winter clothing to refugees and children who really needed our help," said Tom Moore, director of AFSC's Material Aids Program. The AFSC is one of only a few organizations doing relief work in Chechnya.

In Moscow, the clothing was distributed to refugees living on the outskirts of the city. AFSC worked with Friends House Moscow and the Brotherhood of Compassion.

The Chechnya shipment went to

Nazran, near Grozny, a war-devastated area, where AFSC is working with a former Quaker Peace and Service worker who has begun a new peace center there.

The grant money more than covered shipping expenses. The remaining money will be used to buy food and medical supplies for refugees.

This shipment is part of a long tradition of AFSC's work in this region. In the 1920s, the AFSC shipped food and medicine to Russia for famine relief. During the cold war, AFSC's East-West Program coordinated U.S.-Soviet seminars on disarmament and human rights. In response to an earthquake in 1988, AFSC helped build a health clinic in then-Soviet Armenia.

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# Voices from

## Abolition 2000 C Nuclear Disarmament



Miyoko Suzuki

### Corbin Harney, Western Shoshone spiritual leader

Each and every one of you, your duty is to protect our mother. We've only got one mother. The food comes from our mother, everything comes from this Mother Earth of ours.

We, the people today, have to unite ourselves, start talking to each other throughout the world. We're not distant from each other; we're one people on this Mother Earth. We're all alike. We might look a little different from each other, but we're one people.

We, the people together, we have voice, we have song, we have words to say to one another, to the Mother Earth, the water, the air, all the living things out there. The birds rely on us, the animal life relies on us. Let's keep them healthy and clean so we can survive with them.

### Lopeti Senituli, Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific, Tonga

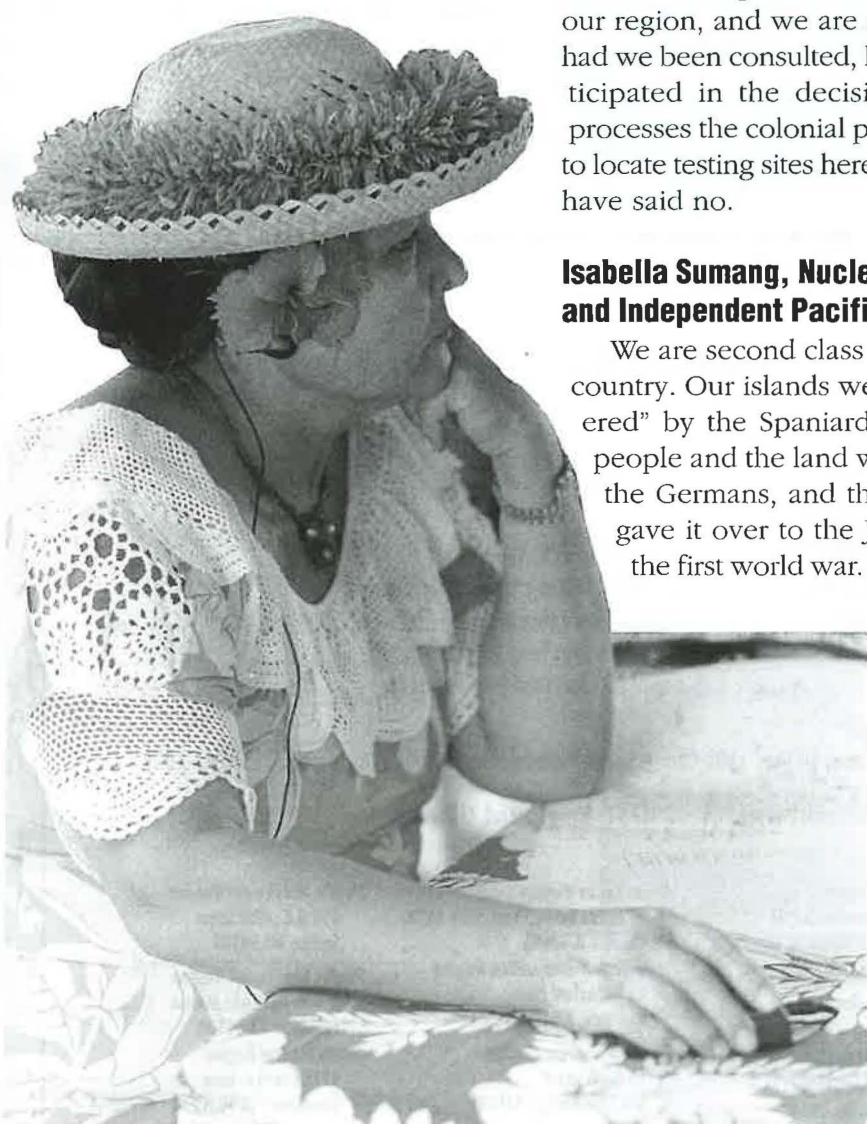
This is what the people of the Pacific are saying, and please listen. We are saying we do not want nuclear testing to be conducted in our region, and we are saying that, had we been consulted, had we participated in the decision-making processes the colonial powers used to locate testing sites here, we would have said no.

### Isabella Sumang, Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific, Belau

We are second class in our own country. Our islands were "discovered" by the Spaniards; then the people and the land were sold to the Germans, and the Germans gave it over to the Japanese in the first world war. Then when



Thoi Nguyen



Tamara Bopp

*No one who attended the Abolition 2000 meeting in Te Ao Maohi (Tahiti) in January 1997 will ever forget the island and its people.*

*The conference, held on the first anniversary of the last French nuclear weapons test, brought together antinuclear activists and Pacific islanders for a week of discussions, workshops, and joint strategizing to create a common agenda to rid the world of nuclear weapons and gain sovereignty rights*

the second world war came around, the United Nations handed the people and land over to the United States to be administered.

The culture of colonization, the nuclear culture, is very demeaning, dehumanizing. In your United States, we used to say, "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all" — except the Belauans, from whom we can take their land and their constitution.

### Marcellin Wongfokoui, nuclear test site worker, Tahiti

What we need to do is get people to put pressure on France to clean up their mess. I know what it's like underneath, all totally ruined, it's like Gruyere cheese, it's so full of holes.



I don't know what we can say to others, because the radioactivity just comes through the air, and it falls out of nowhere on you, and there's nothing you can do. With the contamination of fish, particularly the blue tuna and bonito, radioactivity could get anywhere, because those

fish are wide travelers, they cover a lot of ocean. The thing I most regret is that young people will get this illness, too.

### Aihemo Ariiotima, Hiti Tau, Tahiti

We, the Maohi people, we've known Mother Earth throughout the generations, we have found it in our legends, we know about this from our past. This has been transmitted to us either by our families or through our storytellers, who are representatives of the earth itself. For us, the lagoons in Morora and Fangataufa are part of Mother Earth. These are important areas that will remain poisoned for thousands of years and threaten future generations.



### Trisha Pritikin, Hanford Downwinders, United States

Radiation survivors live in different areas of the world. We are isolated, yet we are the same. We have similar health problems because we've been exposed to similar radioactive substances. My father is dead from thyroid cancer, my brother is dead, my mother is blind, and she has a heart condition caused by a



Edouard Huriori Nachoro



Isabella Sumang



# From Tahiti

## Conference Links Peace and Sovereignty

*for indigenous peoples of the Pacific.*

*AFSC's Asia Pacific Program cosponsored the conference, together with Abolition 2000, a global coalition dedicated to elimination of nuclear weapons, and Hiti Tau, the local organization that is committed to international cooperation and the right to a "permanently denuclearised environment."*

*This report focuses on the voices of individuals who attended the conference from around the world.*



disease of the parathyroid.

We absorbed radioactive Iodine 131 at Hanford. That's also the substance present in atom bomb detonations, plutonium

production, and above- and below-ground bomb tests. All radiation survivors have the same problems. Every day is a terrible struggle.

### **Mayumi Oda, Plutonium Free Future, Japan**

We cannot fight alone; we cannot separate nuclear weapons from nuclear waste, nuclear weapons from nuclear power. They are interdependent. Each step of the nuclear process contributes directly, or through the steps involved to permanent contamination of the atmosphere, the water, the land, and our health. And everybody on the chain has to work together; we can't be separate.

### **Gideon Spiro, Israel**

The question of Israel's possession of a nuclear arsenal affects not only Israel and the Middle East, but

the entire world. Western countries, with their huge arsenal of nuclear weapons, with their high level of nuclear power stations, are potential victims of nuclear catastrophe, just like indigenous people anywhere in the world. In this sense, we are all in one boat. That is the idea of Abolition 2000. We are all brothers and sisters.

### **Istvan Farkas, Alba Kor, Budapest, Hungary**



The Soviet army deployed nuclear weapons in Hungary in the last years, and after they moved from Hungary we became a *de facto* nuclear weapons-free zone.

The Hungarians fear NATO expansion, and they fear nuclear weapons will be deployed on our territory. Many, many people in Hungary are against nuclear weapons. I think this is a common public opinion.

### **Lars Pohlmeier, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Germany**

One of the arguments in favor of nuclear weapons is that they kept

the peace and they never hurt anybody—for fifty years we've had peace in Europe, so why should we be against nuclear weapons? I say this has not been the case. Nuclear weapons kill people even when not used in an actual war.

### **Myrla Baldonado, Nuclear Free Philippines**

After Chernobyl and Three Mile Island, Asia became the dumping ground for nuclear technology. After the victory of the antinuclear movement, which resulted in the U.S. government's closure of nuclear power plants, the International Atomic Energy Agency and lots of other agencies looked at Asia to market nuclear technology. Currently, 32 plants are planned to be built within the next ten years, in Indonesia, the Philippines, and South Korea.



### **Alison Kelen, Marshall Islands**

I lived on Bikini for four years. In 1978 the United States moved people from Bikini. I was a young kid, but I still remember. To me, it was kind of fun because I was on a ship, but everybody was crying so I thought they were getting kind of seasick. I saw my dad waving to the island with a white piece of cloth, and he was crying, and my mom too. I thought they were seasick.

Coming to this conference is very touching. I've never been involved with people who were against this thing, other than my own people.

### **Almira Mataoshi, Marshall Islands**

I've got two children that were born at the time of the nuclear tests, and one of them has a condition of dwarfism, and the other is mentally retarded. I had a full-term baby. I



**Kilali Alailima**

carried the child for nine months, and when it was born there was no human resemblance to it. I had four children who died immediately after delivery.

To this day the whole Marshall Islands are contaminated. There's nothing we can do now except hold onto our homeland because that's the only inheritance given to us by our ancestors. In the Islands, we believe that if we lose our homeland, we have no identity. But our homeland is contaminated, and we're struggling to return.

### **Rishi Manchanda, Tufts University, Boston, Massachusetts**

I've learned that paradise exists and that we as a human society often fail to realize and appreciate it and treat it with the respect paradise is due. That's what the nuclear issue is all about.



### **Pauline Tangiora, New Zealand**

The bird is the sower of our trees and flowers. It flies from north to south, east to west. This bird is a sign that nature is very much alive here. But it may not always be there. Every island remembers genocide, because our reproduction will never be the same. This is the womb of every generation. You together will determine if Mother Earth will survive.



**Lars Pohlmeier**

**Almira Mataoshi**



**Alison Kelen**

*All photos on this page by Terry Foss*



# Markers & Milestones

## H.O.P.E. in Ann Arbor; Pride in Seattle

Two substantial grants will boost efforts of two AFSC programs that work with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

The Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Issues Program in Ann Arbor, Michigan, received a \$20,486 grant from the H.O.P.E. Fund of the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan. The grant will fund training for 50 people, including 30 religious leaders, on issues affecting gays and lesbians. "Even in faith communities where there is some openness on lesbian, gay, and bisexual issues, considerable lack of understanding, and many negative stereotypes remain," says Jan Wright, director of the program.

Meanwhile, the Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Youth Program in Seattle, Washington, received a three-year, \$30,000 grant from the Pride Foundation. The grant "...recognizes organizations of proven leadership, vision, and service that substantially strengthen the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community," according to a letter from the foundation announcing the award.

## Haiti trip to raise money for health center

*Men anpil chay pa lou*, or "many hands lighten the load" is the theme of a donors' trip to Haiti planned by the AFSC for November. It will raise money for a much-needed community health and training center in the village of Irois. There is room for ten participants, who are each asked to raise \$5,000 to help build the center. That figure also covers participants' transportation costs. They will visit Irois and the Grand Anse region of Haiti and attend the center's dedication. The money will also help buy an ambulance boat to transport seriously ill patients. For more information, write to AFSC Donor Services, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102; e-mail: eec@aol.com.

## Westtown students moved to take action

Quaker pastor David Niyonzima, from the war-torn African country of Burundi, had a profound effect on students at Westtown Friends School when he spoke to them during his tour of the United States last fall. "Moved by his visit and what he had to say, we decided to change our annual seventh- and eighth-grade winter dance to raise money for the people of Burundi," the Westtown (Pa.) Middle School Student Council wrote in a letter to AFSC. The dance and addi-



David Niyonzima with students

tional donations raised \$210 to help David's efforts at peace and reconciliation in Burundi.

## Corinne B. Johnson retires

After 30 years of service with AFSC, Corinne B. Johnson retired in February as director of the International Division. She joined AFSC in 1957 and held administrative positions with student seminars, Quaker International Centers, the Overseas Refugee Program, and the Family Planning and Population Education Program. She became director of the International Division in 1979,



Corinne Johnson

where she became known for consistency in applying high standards of fairness to AFSC's international work, commitment to "being there" until people in projects could determine their own directions, for identifying root causes of problems, and for

seeking long-term solutions. AFSC now has programs in 29 countries in Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

## Nobel nomination

AFSC has nominated former U.S. president Jimmy Carter for the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize for the second time. "Carter demonstrates how a former president can make a unique contribution to ending armed conflicts and building a foundation for a peaceful world," says Kara Newell, AFSC executive director. He leads the Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia, in its worldwide efforts of peace-making and negotiations. The AFSC, as corecipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1947, is invited to make nominations for the annual prize.

## Martha McDonald retires

Caring about people she had never met and working hard to help them anyway—those were daily elements in Martha McDonald's 12 years as director of the Material Aids Program office in High Point, North Carolina. Martha recently retired from the position, where she sorted and mended clothes, sewed blankets, dresses, teddy bears, and baby clothes, and coordinated the work of many volunteers. Known for her single-mindedness and conscientious work ethic, she shipped nearly 200,000 pounds of clothing from the farmhouse where the North Carolina program is located. She grew up in a Quaker home in central Iowa, and she and her husband Lloyd will move back to that area for their retirement.



Martha McDonald in N.C. Material Aids Center

# RESOURCES

To place an order or get an AFSC publications catalog, contact Literature Resources, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Phila., PA 19102, or call toll free 1-(888) 588-AFSC; (215) 241-7048; FAX: (215) 241-7275. Make checks payable to AFSC, *Literature Resources*.

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Visit our new website: <http://www.afsc.org>

## Love Amid the Ruins

Video documentary by German Public TV about post-war Quaker relief and reconciliation through German eyes. Includes reminiscences of former Quaker Service volunteers. In English, narrated by Scott Simon. 30 min. Includes study guide.

Price: \$10



## Feminist Family Values

Angela Davis, Maria Jimenez, Mililani Trask, Gloria Steinem explore the issues of women and the environment, economic sustainability, ways conventional views of "family values" undermine the rights of women and children, etc. 131 pages.

Price: \$18.95 (includes postage)

## Respectful Engagement

Cuban NGO Cooperation with Latin America, Europe, and Canada, by Milagros Cisneros

Summarizes rise of Cuban nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Includes glossary, text of legislation, copies of AFSC's statement on U.S.-Cuba relations, etc.

Price: \$7

## Summer Youth Leadership Training Programs 1997 edition

Brochure lists selected youth leadership training sessions. Published by AFSC's Youth and Militarism Program. Free, by calling (215) 241-7176, or read on <http://www.afsc.org/youthmil/youth97.htm>

## No Human Being is Illegal AFSC Economic Justice Program

Colorful graphics and provocative saying support the rights of immigrants to live and work in the United States. Proceeds from these items will be used for public education about immigration issues.

T-shirt \$12 (Sizes: large, x-large only)

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## Homenaje

Bilingual material produced by the youth activists of AFSC Project in Chicago. Profiles lives of 11 women community leaders and their work in community arts programs, union organizing, domestic violence counseling, etc. 31 pages.

Price: \$9.50 (includes postage)

(Order from AFSC-Chicago, 59 E Van Buren, Suite 1400, Chicago IL 60605 or call 312/427-2533.)



## Welcome, Anthony Thoai Nguyen

Anthony Thoai Nguyen recently joined AFSC as coordinator of the national Asia Pacific Program in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Asia Pacific Program works with Asian and Pacific Islander communities in the United States and the Pacific Basin. It has offices in Honolulu, Hawai'i; Oakland, California; and Philadelphia. He recently served as director of program development for the Committee Against Anti-Asian Violence in New York City, New York.

## Welcome to Janice Knuth

Janice Knuth has joined AFSC's Affirmative Action staff as a specialist on disability issues. A social worker, she has a rich background of experience working in agencies for the blind, centers for independent living, and grassroots organizations that advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. She has a disability herself: low vision due to albinism, a genetic condition that results in little or no pigmentation. She started a national organization for persons with albinism and served as its president for 11 years.

## Learning citizenship

*Continued from page 1*

recruit people to organize citizenship and ESL (English as a Second Language) classes. The first series of classes served 160 people.

One of the hardest parts of the job, El Primo says, is convincing residents they can make a difference.

"Many people in this area are from countries with corrupt governments, so they don't take elections seriously," he notes. "It takes a lot of effort for us to convince them that this is a different country and that the U.S. Constitution protects our rights."

Meanwhile, staff in the Stockton office have started the Immigrant and Refugee Information Service (IRIS). Among other projects, IRIS staff member Sanjo Aldea is compiling a directory of agencies and individuals who serve immigrants and is acting as a resource for agencies that work with immigrants applying for citizenship. Working with the Immigrant Legal Resources Center, Sanjo and other staff also are providing information about the latest immigration policies to local ethnic news media.

"The agencies and media we work with say that they can't get such up-to-date information about immigration policy anywhere else, so they love what we're doing," says Raj Ramaiya, program coordinator in Stockton. "We noticed that there was an information gap, and we're trying to fill it."

In addition, the program is organizing a number of ethnic business organizations, an important step in an area with a high concentration of Southeast Asian immigrants.

"Southeast Asian immigrants move into active citizenship primarily through economic development," Mark Miller explains. "By working with the Asian business community, we've been facilitating their participation in U.S. society."

Finally, El Primo notes that another vital offshoot of these efforts is development of new leaders within immigrant and refugee communities.

"We keep telling people they have to be ready to take the place of long-time activists. To do that, they have to get involved and stay active in the democratic process."

# Joyous shouts greet safe haven

For the children of Zibqeen, Lebanon, the recently opened Friends Garden playground offers a simple, generous gift: a safe place to play.

"The Friends Garden is one of the very few places in south Lebanon where children can, for a moment, forget the traumas, fear, and daily tension of life in a war zone," says Phillippa Neave of the British Quaker Peace and Service (QPS). "This is the first time that kids can play safely in Zibqeen, which has lost seven children in recent years, three of them to Israeli land mines."

Zibqeen is near the Israeli/Lebanese border, just north of the Israeli self-declared security zone, where war conditions have prevailed for close to 20 years. A major after-effect of countless Israeli military attacks over the years is that the scrub land surrounding Zibqeen is littered with hidden land mines and unexploded ordinance. Friends Garden is on a safe patch of land.

The playground was a joint project of the AFSC, Brummana Friends Meeting in Lebanon, and QPS.

Phillippa recalls that when the playground opened this past February, the joyous shouts of 150 children at play served as a backdrop while a line of adults waited to make speeches. "The per-

vading din was such that all the prepared grown-up speeches had to be cut to a few words of thanks," Phillippa says.

The opening of the modest, roughly 5,000-square-foot playground was met with great fanfare in Zibqeen, a village of some 1,400 inhabitants. Villagers decorated the area with ribbons and balloons, and Brummana Meeting provided hundreds of chocolate bars and juice containers, which added to the festive atmosphere. The playground boasts the usual assortment of children's games, such as see-saws, swings, and a slide, all built by a local blacksmith and paid for by Save the Children Federation. In addition, a sunscreen in the shape of a Quaker star stands in the center of the playground.

Bill Pierre, coordinator of Middle East programs for AFSC, says that helping build the playground gave AFSC an opening to reconnect with the people of South Lebanon and an opportunity to collaborate with other Quaker organizations. Phillippa adds her hope that this will not be the last such joint venture.

"The children of other villages need playgrounds, too," she says. "We must come up with other ways of doing more of these."



Slides and see-saws are part of the fun at the Friends Garden playground in Zibqeen, Lebanon.

***'Common folk, not statesmen, nor generals, nor great men of affairs, but just simple men and women, if they devote themselves...can do something to build a better peaceful world.'***

Henry Cadbury in Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech

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Spring '97



## Lakota sovereignty

# Yearning that comes from the heart

By Melissa K. Elliott

**W**HEN GERALD One Feather talks about indigenous rights, his eyes look into the distance, and the quiet hush of the prairie is in his voice.

Gerald is well aware of the political and economic arguments the subject stirs all over the world. He is a long-time leader of the Lakota people and an AFSC staff member of nearly ten years, so he's heard the anger, participated in the discussions. And he lives the reality on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, where poverty and problems run deep among an old and proud people.

To Gerald One Feather, indigenous rights are about seeing his people recover their dreams and control their own land, make their own decisions and renew spiritual practices that once held them together, connected them to the earth, and fed them spiritually. His opinions carry a strength deeper than self-righteousness: they are gentle, persistent, and come from inner knowing.

"What is my vision? What would I like to see accomplished in my lifetime? I would like to see my people be allowed to be self-determined, to bring ourselves together under one system of government across international boundaries, to control our own land, and revive our culture,

language, and ceremonies."

His voice is being heard in some important corners. For the last two years he has represented the alliance of Lakota peoples known as *Ikce Wicasa Ta Omniciye* at the meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland. The Commission discussed, formulated, and put forward the UN Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which is now undergoing review and will be submitted to the UN General Assembly for approval.

The Lakotas' struggle for their rights is part of a swelling tide by indigenous peoples worldwide to have their demands recognized. (See pages 4 and 5.) As they share their

experiences and cultures, common themes and strategies emerge, and their voices gain strength from each other. "Indians are more aware of issues, and there is a great deal of residual guilt in the dominant culture," says Ed Nakawatase, national coordinator of AFSC's Native Americans/Native Peoples programs. "Popular culture is picking up on these cues. Over the years there has been a shift in perception."

Indians as a whole are more able to speak out, Gerald says. "There are people among the Lakota who have more education and can stand and speak to people in government as equals."

Gerald is one of those people,

and he works at many levels to bring changes. Most of his efforts have a spiritual component, even the most practical ones, such as teaching young people how to garden. "I introduce them to their relationship to the earth. And the produce they raise will improve their families' diets."

There are similar elements in the buffalo project, which is just getting off the ground with money for fencing and animals. "Buffalo are special creatures for my people. We believe they are people; they are our relatives. We believe they came into our world to help us stay alive. There is a connectedness, spiritually and physically."

Other AFSC projects Gerald is working on include reintroducing Lakota ceremonies, such as coming-of-age initiations, vision quests, and sweat lodges; sponsoring a language-immersion camp for youth; defending rights to sacred sites; and supporting *Ikce Wicasa Ta Omniciye*, through which Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota people speak with a unified voice.

"I think the most important thing in working with people is to create a vision. Then you can move them to a better place, a better life," Gerald says. "We were a nation a hundred years ago, and we lost that, but sovereignty doesn't go away. The yearning is still here," he says, tapping his chest, "in people's hearts."

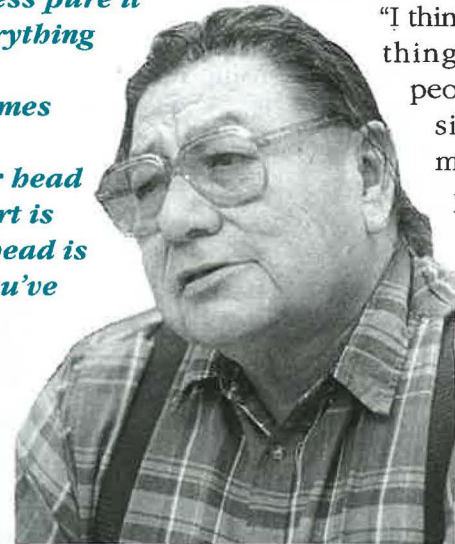
**W**E BELIEVE each one of us has a spirit that never dies. The purer it is, the broader it sees. The less pure it is, the narrower it sees. We believe that everything that moves has a spirit. That's why it moves!

*Spirit lives in your heart. When your spirit becomes wise, you become a wise man.*

*Listen to what your heart says, not to what your head says. Your heart knows; the knowledge of your heart is based on your experience. The knowledge of your head is based on what other people have told you, what you've read in books. When you communicate with spirit, don't do it with your head; do it with your heart.*

*Listen to your heart, and it will tell you; it will educate you. That's the kind of education that's based on spirit speaking, not on what other people think.*

Gerald One Feather



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AFSC's Orita Program works with low-income students in middle schools. Using their creative energy, they make crafts such as picture frames, jewelry, masks and sand art for sale. In the process, they begin to understand how business works and gain self-esteem.

**Craft supplies for one week: \$60**

**Two hours of college intern help: \$25**

### In the Middle East

AFSC supports the building of civil society for Palestinians. We work with youth groups from Gaza, the West Bank, and Israel to pro-

mote commitment to their communities and improve leadership skills. For the second year, AFSC will support a summer camp to give these youth a chance to meet in a more carefree atmosphere.

**Shipment of 50 pounds of donated bedding: \$25**

**Purchasing camping utensils, etc.: \$75**

### In Somalia

AFSC's development project has expanded to new villages. We are introducing oxen for plowing to replace hand labor. In an area where basic health care is inadequate, local women are being trained as midwives.

**One ox yoke: \$30**

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