



Mobilizing 'the people in the pews'

In Chicago, AFSC stirs people of faith to act for peace

Editor's note: Since this story was written, the U.S.-led war on Iraq has begun. However, the work in Chicago has laid the groundwork for coordinated actions in the region to respond to the war and its aftermath.

Carl Fanning didn't leave his belief in God behind as he worked to avert war on Iraq. Quite the opposite: His faith was central to his antiwar organizing.

Carl, who lives and works in Chicago, Illinois, is a member of Broadway United Methodist Church, where he is co-chair of the Church and World Concerns Committee. He started organizing against the war on Iraq after a church member brought the issue to his committee.

"On a surface level, everyone on the committee had a negative reaction to war," he says. "Once we researched our denomination's position, we understood that we had to apply our Christian beliefs to this issue."

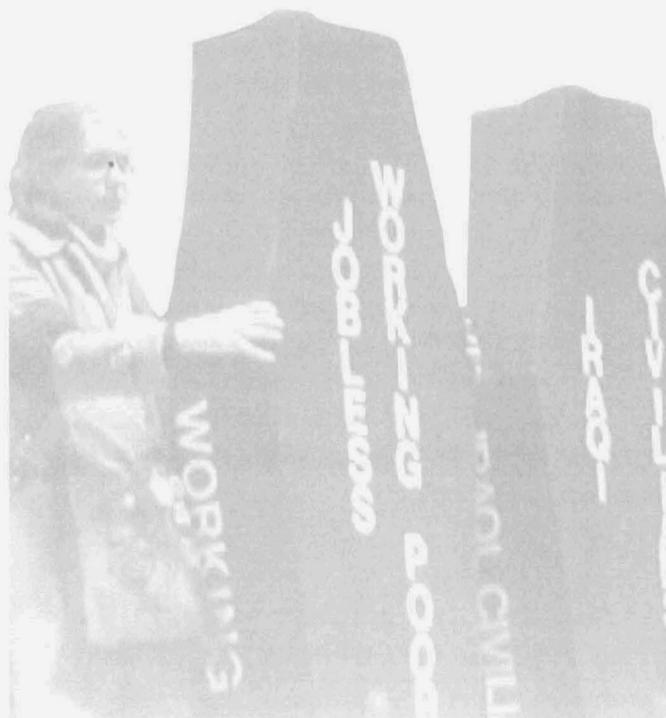
Broadway United Methodist is part of Chicago's United for Peace: Faithful Citizenship, an interfaith antiwar coalition initiated by AFSC's Great Lakes Regional Office in Chicago.

"One of our objectives was to reach out to the people in the pews who perhaps have never been to a peace demonstration," says Michael McConnell, director of the Chicago office. "However, these same people will act within a faith context."

The costs of war

The coalition includes people of Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Buddhist, and Hindu faiths. It has attracted an impressive amount of attention in a short time.

Among a number of high-profile activities, the coalition organized an Interfaith Public Witness for the Casualties of War in February. That event focused on the millions who would stand in harm's way in a war—U.S. and Iraqi soldiers, Iraqi civilians, and people in the United States who are paying for the costs of war.



As Michael points out: "The homeless, immigrants in the United States, unemployed and low-wage workers, children—they're all suffering because so many resources are being directed toward war instead of affordable housing, health care, and job creation."

Michael says that the coalition's success at mobilizing communities of faith makes it harder to dismiss the peace movement as a fringe effort.

"When we started this work, the media and U.S. government were trying to marginalize the peace movement," he says. "We wanted to make it clear that peace is part of the mainstream. Because of the support we've gotten, the media has had to take notice. Global public opinion is now the only other superpower that can stand up to the U.S. government's military machine."

Long-term plans

As this issue of *Quaker Service Bulletin* goes to press, the Faithful Citizenship coalition plans to continue its ongoing visible opposition to war, support the Chicago area's large Muslim population in the event of a backlash, and make places of worship available for people to talk about further actions.

In the long-term, Michael hopes to organize people of faith against unjust and militaristic U.S. policies. "Some people say that you should keep the church and faith out of politics," he notes. "But we say that in order to be a good citizen, you have to be involved and you have to bring your faith with you."

For more information

Log onto www.peacechicago.org for the most up-to-date information about the work of United for Peace: Faithful Citizenship.



The Public Witness for the Casualties of War was one of the coalition's recent high-profile activities.

Take action

Needed: Hygiene Kits

Given the turbulent world situation, AFSC's Emergency and Material Assistance Program (EMAP) continues to stockpile Emergency Hygiene Kits. Kits are needed in crisis situations where people, forced to leave their homes, lack basic hygiene items. Putting together kits is a great interfaith project, so consider working with another church, meeting, mosque, or synagogue. For more information, contact EMAP by phone at (215) 241-7041 or via e-mail at EMAP@afsc.org. You also can get more information online at www.afsc.org/ematasst.htm.



Health Kits get packed for shipping

Stay informed

One of the keys to effective action is current and reliable information. Below are a few websites that can help keep you up-to-date with a rapidly changing situation:

- www.afsc.org/iraq/activism.shtm Get information on the call for actions that are at the heart of AFSC's Iraq Program.
- www.winwithoutwarus.org The Win Without War coalition, of which AFSC is a member, includes many mainstream groups and continues to coordinate peace actions.
- www.unitedforpeace.org United for Peace, an AFSC partner organization, offers a useful calendar of peace events.

Support human needs, not war

Join in a national effort to change the U.S. government's budget priorities and get resources that link the costs of war and the human needs crisis. For more information, sign up for AFSC's "welfare and poverty" listserve by contacting Kathryn Kurtz at (215) 241-7125 (phone) or kkurtz@afsc.org (e-mail). To sign a petition on national priorities, visit www.fairtaxesforall.org.

Showdown in Texas

Mark your calendars: On Saturday, May 3, thousands of people will gather in Austin, Texas, to take a stand against the "war on terrorism" and U.S. militarism in its many forms.



Why Texas? Because of the state's critical role in providing weapons, troops, and fuel for the U.S. military. The May 3 rally is the culmination of the AFSC's Made in Texas campaign. For more information, contact the Made in Texas campaign at (512) 370-9553 (phone) or pmallard@afsc.org (e-mail). You also can write to Made in Texas, AFSC, 1304 E. Sixth Street #3, Austin, TX 78702, or get information online at www.madeintexas.us.

Holding up our vision of the peaceable kingdom

by Mary Ellen McNish

Many in Washington, D.C., have a clear vision of the future that they are working toward. We face an era in which catch phrases like “preemptive strike” and “full spectrum dominance” camouflage a belief that might makes right and that America’s greatness is directly proportional to how much the people of the world fear it.



Mary Ellen McNish

When Americans asked “Why?” after September 11, they were offered a list of scapegoats, an “Axis of Evil.” But 85 years of experience tells us at the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) that the true axis of evil is pandemic poverty, environmental degradation, and a world awash in weapons.

We in the AFSC have spent the last two years in our own visioning process discerning where God is calling us to be. For the present, we are compelled to stand against the immediate evil of war. However, if we are to take away the occasion for war, we must lift up an articulate vision of the world we want. Hundreds of people from around the world have devoted thousands of hours to our new strategic plan. The resulting document begins:

The AFSC envisions a world where security and fundamental human rights eclipse violence and oppression; where opportunities to make a living as part of a sustainable community supplant poverty; where appreciation of diverse gifts and cultures replaces exclusion and rejection; where commitment to love and dialogue prevails.

The plan contains six goals. They express our commitment to work for peace, humanitarian assistance, economic justice, the rights of migrants, equitable systems of justice, and to support young people in their work for peace and justice.

The scope is broad and the goals are daunting. To achieve these goals will require renewed commitment and hard work by us all. We will need to find the financial and human resources, and we will need to do the hard work of building relationships and coalitions.

This plan cannot succeed without your commitment. Now is the time to redouble our witness for peace. Now is the time for us to hold up our vision of the peaceable kingdom.

We know that war with Iraq will cost thousands of lives. A few months ago, analysts at Yale University estimated that it also may cost more than one trillion dollars. Now is the time to say that war will not make us safer, and that the true path to safety lies in taking away the occasion for war.

Mary Ellen McNish is AFSC's General Secretary.

The push



As this issue of *Quaker Service Bulletin* goes to press, a U.S.-led war against Iraq has begun. At the same time, the “war on terrorism” continues to erode U.S. constitutional rights and the social welfare system. The AFSC has responded by working with a multitude of partners to stem these destructive processes at the local, national, and international levels. However, peace is not only the absence of weapons or violent conflict. It’s also the presence of justice. Peace is intimately connected to issues of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, and economics, and these issues are woven through the many strands of our peace work.

Read on for highlights of recent efforts. For the full scope of our work, as well as the latest on our activities and analyses, we encourage you to visit our website, www.afsc.org.

California: People of faith take a stand against war

In San Francisco, Sandra Schwartz, director of the Peace Education Program, has helped organize two peace groups: the Interfaith Women’s Group and Alternatives to War Forum. The women’s group began as a potluck dinner to talk about safety issues in the wake of the war on terrorism and the anti-immigrant backlash. The group has evolved into a monthly dialogue that includes Muslim, Jewish, and Christian women. Members plan to give presentations at area schools and community groups. Meanwhile, the Alternatives to War Forum has organized people of faith to take a stand for peace. Among other activities, the group is planning monthly speakers, films, and other educational events. AFSC and the San Francisco Friends Meeting also continue their weekly vigils in front of the Federal Building in downtown San Francisco. People of all faiths are welcome.

New England: Raising the peace movement’s profile

AFSC’s regional office in Cambridge, Massachusetts, along with field offices in Western Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, have undertaken a series of high-profile peace efforts. They include successful newspaper ad campaigns, large demonstrations, public speaking events, and media outreach that have resulted in a variety of newspaper articles and helped give the peace movement a higher profile in the region. For example, in Connecticut, staff and volunteers attempted to mail relief supplies to Iraq from various local post offices. Although post office staff declined to accept the supplies due to the UN embargo, the efforts received significant media attention.

DONOR PROFILE

Raising money for Afghanistan one ‘empty bowl’ at a time

In the art room at the Friends School in Detroit, one batch of ceramic bowls came out of the kiln and another colorful batch went for firing. The bowls, handmade by students (K-8), were destined for a fundraising event—Empty Bowls.

Empty Bowls is a worldwide effort to fund programs battling hunger. Participating groups make bowls and invite “customers” for a simple meal of soup and bread. The financial contributions go to the hunger organization; the bowls go home with the donors to remind them that hunger still exists.

AFSC received more than \$1,700 from the Friends School in Detroit. Because the school has an interest in Afghanistan, the money went to a special feeding project in Kabul. AFSC also supports schools and a women’s literacy project in Afghanistan. The Afghan women earn a stipend to provide food for their families while they study reading, simple math, and tailoring. At the end of the course, participants receive a sewing

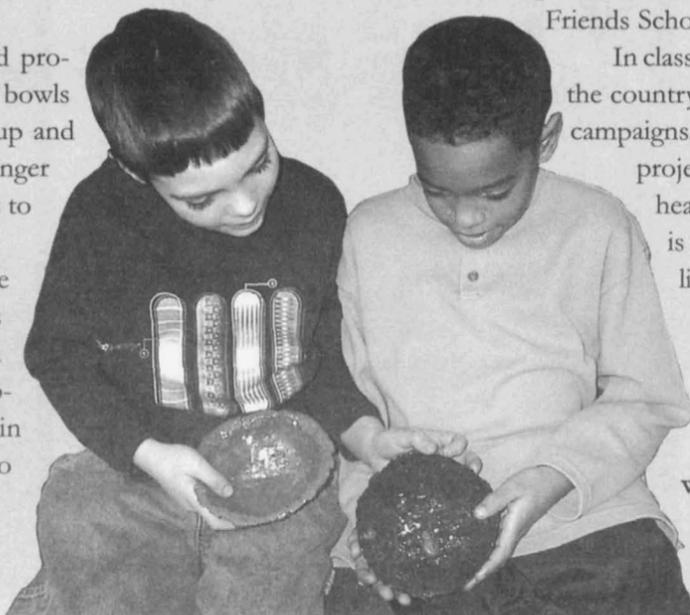
machine so they can make a living.

Teacher Winkie Covintree, organizer of the Empty Bowls event, noted that the experience links art with the important social issues that concern the Friends School in Detroit community.

In classrooms, meetings, churches, and youth groups around the country, eager young people participate in hands-on AFSC campaigns. Building on a series of educational and practical kit projects, the most recent effort resulted in thousands of health kits for Iraq. “The newspapers are saying that Iraq is an enemy,” said Peter Manzelmann, a teacher at Mullica Friends School in New Jersey. “By providing health kits, we’re trying to humanize the situation and relieve some of the suffering of innocent, everyday people.”

To learn more about Empty Bowls, log onto www.emptybowls.org.

Photo: Third graders Kiernan Babcock (left) and Jordan Jackson do their part for the Empty Bowls project.



FRIENDS SCHOOL IN DETROIT

for peace

New Jersey: AFSC program tries to calm immigrant fears

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has stepped up efforts to enforce immigration laws. Not surprisingly, the fear in immigrant communities has reached new levels, says Amy Gottlieb, director of AFSC's Immigrant Rights Program in Newark, New Jersey. The INS "special registration" program, for example, primarily targets immigrants from Arab and Muslim countries and has resulted in numerous arrests and deportations.

"We've given talks in mosques, Arabic centers, and other places to explain who's affected by this program," Amy says. "People won't even come to get information because they're afraid."

The Immigrant Rights Program continues to offer legal services, organize immigrant communities, and educate them about their rights. However, the work has become increasingly difficult. "In the past, there was always a helpful route we could take," Amy says. "Now, it feels like there are obstacles in every direction."

U.S.: New project monitors hate/state violence

With the onset of war, AFSC expects a growing backlash against immigrant communities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities; political dissidents; people of color; and other vulnerable sectors. AFSC is coordinating an urgent response network to monitor both hate violence and state violence. The project will evaluate how AFSC can best support affected regional programs and constituencies, building on the work of internal networks that focus on immigration, the Middle East, and criminal justice. In addition, the project will undertake research and writing about growing attacks on civil liberties and constitutional rights.

U.S./International: Historic outcries for peace

On February 15, millions of people throughout the world rallied to voice their opposition to the pending U.S. war against Iraq. AFSC staff, volunteers, and supporters participated in and helped organize many of the U.S.-based protests. Other highly visible protests that AFSC was a part of included the following:



Peace vigil in Philadelphia, Pa., on March 16, 2003

March 5 AFSC supported the National Youth and Student Peace Coalition in organizing nationwide student walk-outs, demonstrations, and other displays of opposition to the war with Iraq.

March 8 On International Women's Day, Code Pink and United for Peace and Justice, a coalition to which AFSC belongs, organized a women-led rally and march on Washington, D.C.

March 10 More than one million people worldwide signed a petition demonstrating their opposition to war with Iraq. AFSC, MoveOn.org, and the Win Without War Coalition delivered the petition to the UN Security Council.

March 16 AFSC, the Win Without War Coalition, and Desmond Tutu coordinated a Global Candlelight Vigil for Peace that included participants from more than 6,000 locations in dozens of countries.

Cambodia: Expatriates organize against war on Iraq

AFSC staff in Cambodia were part of a group of expatriates who collected signatures for a petition that called for nonmilitary solutions to the crisis with Iraq. More than 1,500 people from 40 countries signed the petition, which was presented by groups of expatriates to their respective ambassadors in Cambodia.

"It was very heartening to see people really rally to this activity," wrote Patricia DeBoer, AFSC's Cambodia program director, in a recent e-mail. "A previous vigil had been organized by Americans...so we were surprised to find so many other nationalities wanting to sign 'our' petition."

OPINION

Why we can't wait North Korea and the Bush administration

by James Reilly

While the Bush administration continues its war with Iraq, it responds to North Korea's nuclear transgressions with calls for multilateral approaches led by the United Nations and U.S. allies.

Why the different tactics? The answer is that the administration's cold shoulder to North Korea's plea for bilateral negotiations keeps tensions high on the Korean peninsula. This in turn justifies U.S. bases, missile defenses, and the endless "war on terror." Unfortunately, the assumption that we can afford to wait is based on four dangerous misconceptions:



James Reilly

1. *North Korea's neighbors can handle it.* In reality, as much as Beijing seeks a nuclear-free Korea, Chinese leaders have limited influence and even less desire to extract the United States from a diplomatic debacle of its own making. South Korea has been shining sunlight on the North for years now, with precious little to show for it. Japan has completely taken itself out of the game, and Russia never was a player. In fact, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il will only talk to the one person unwilling to sit across from him at the negotiation table: George W. Bush.

2. *We have options.* It is terrifyingly mistaken to imagine that the Pentagon's chain of escalation—economic sanctions, naval blockades, and surgical strikes—will lead to anything less than a second Korean War. We should take Pyongyang at their word: sanctions mean war, and strikes mean nuclear war.

3. *Isolation will lead to the collapse of North Korea.* Trade sanctions will not work. No one depends less on international trade than North Korea. As William Perry, former U.S. Secretary of Defense, told President Clinton in 1994, we need to deal with North Korea as it is, not as we wish it to be.

4. *There is no harm in waiting.* North Korea will continue to escalate both the rhetoric and its antagonistic actions until it gets nuclear arms or negotiations. North Korea's fighter jets now follow U.S. spy planes and it recently launched a short-range missile toward Japan, all while Chinese and U.S. troops train for a Korea "scenario." The higher the tensions, the smaller an accident it will take to set off hostilities.

Still, hope remains. Calls for direct negotiations are mounting, both in and outside the U.S. government. The increasingly powerful global peace movement is beginning to pay attention to Korea. And new South Korean president Roh Moo Hyun insists that the issue "be resolved peacefully through dialogue."

Yet, time is not on our side. To sustain peace in Korea, the time to start unconditional direct negotiations between the United States and North Korea is now.

James Reilly and Wu Na are the East Asia Quaker International Affairs Representatives (QIARs). Based in Dalian, China, they facilitate regional exchanges aimed at reducing militarism and promoting conflict resolution, and work to improve U.S./China and U.S./North Korea relations.

BRIDGING THE DIVIDE



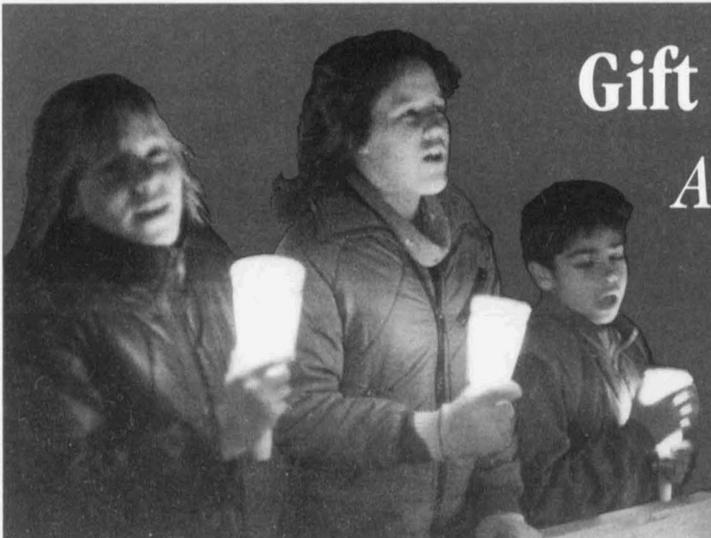
RANDY IRESON

AFSC coordinates exchanges that bring North Korean agricultural scientists to the United States. The Korean scientists exchange ideas with U.S. agriculturalists about farming techniques, and the face-to-face meetings help bridge the divide between the two nations.

Gift Annuity

A way to pass on the torch of hope...

TERRY FOSS

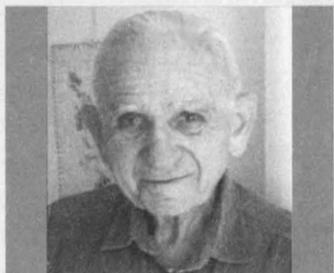


AFSC's gift annuitants range from those who were fed after World War I to those who were conscientious objectors and resisters during the Vietnam War. Many have been helped by or inspired by the staff and volunteers of the American Friends Service Committee. Recognizing the importance of AFSC in their lives, they have made generous gifts to AFSC, which help ensure that our current work continues and future work is possible.

Now we are witnessing a resurgence of the peace movement and an enthusiastic response from young people. In high schools and colleges around the country, many students are raising their voices for peace, calling for nonviolent resolution of conflict and much-needed funds for education.

AFSC staff and volunteers have reached out to communities in Seattle, San Francisco, Chicago, Austin, Concord, and elsewhere. Training sessions in conflict resolution, assembling relief kits, sponsoring interfaith forums, urging letters to the editor, and organizing marches, vigils, and e-mail campaigns—all of these efforts have a common thread. They've raised awareness that there are alternatives to war and violence.

Through our gift annuity program you help us continue AFSC's historic commitment to peace, social justice, and human dignity. For more information, please complete and return the coupon to the right. Thank you!



JACK MALINOWSKI

I made my gift to AFSC out of appreciation for its self-help programs, its commitment to community development, and for its work for peace.

Eugene Grasberg
a recent gift annuity donor

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63	6.1	79	8.0
64	6.2	80	8.3
65	6.3	81	8.5
66	6.3	82	8.8
67	6.4	83	9.1
68	6.5	84	9.4
69	6.6	85	9.7
70	6.7	86	10.1
71	6.8	87	10.4
72	6.9	88	10.8
73	7.0	89	11.2
74	7.2	90 +	11.5
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QSBSP03

RESOURCES

Resources for activists

To download flyers, posters, interpretive articles, and other materials that can be used for local peace actions, go to www.afsc.org/iraq/guide. You also can call (215) 241-7166.

Military service: Options for young people

To help young people in your community think through the realities of

military service, contact the AFSC Youth and Militarism Program, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102; phone: (215) 241-7176; fax: (215) 241-7177; e-mail: youthmil@afsc.org. You also can check online at www.afsc.org/youthmil/choices.

Lesbian, gay antiwar issue brief

"Is Opposing the War An LGBT Issue?" is a new issue brief from AFSC's National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Program. The brief makes the connections between LGBT struggles and those of the peace

movement. Download it and other documents, all part of an emerging LGBT antiwar movement, at www.afsc.org/lgbt/peace.

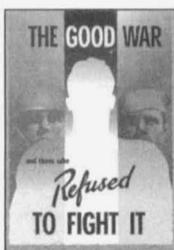
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MUST-SEE VIDEOS: Profiles of courageous dissent

With the banners of war and militarism again flying high, those who dissent may find themselves under attack as unpatriotic or worse. This is not the first time. In every conflict since the Revolutionary War, there have been resisters—people whose deeply held beliefs prevented them from supporting or taking part in war. Two recent documentary films bring just such stories to life.

In *The Good War and Those Who Refused to Fight It*, Steve Cary, former general secretary of AFSC, is among the remarkable men who tell of their refusal



to join what was undoubtedly the most popular war of the past century. In the film, a group of these brave men reflect on the depth of their beliefs, the significance of their actions, and the hostility they faced from the U.S. public.

Price: \$34.95, includes shipping & handling.

To order, contact Paradigm Productions, 2600 10th Street, #429, Berkeley, CA 94710; fax: (510) 843-0138; e-mail: jie@paradigmproductions.org

Rufus Jones, Quaker mystic, philosopher, and founder of AFSC, believed deeply in the power of love to overcome

violence and injustice. The documentary *Rufus Jones: A Luminous Life*, explores many facets of his faith and his actions, including his interventions for peace and reconciliation during the two great global conflicts of the 20th century.

Price: \$10, plus shipping & handling.

To order, contact AFSC Literature Resources, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102; phone: (215) 241-7048 (or toll-free 1-888-588-AFSC); fax: (215) 241-7275.



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