

QuakerAction

Formerly the Quaker Service Bulletin

**2004 elections energize
AFSC's work for peace
and justice**

**After a year in Iraq,
AFSC staff reflect on a
nation at the crossroads
and in turmoil**

**Detained immigrants
struggle to find asylum
in the U.S.**

**Animal 'banks' in
Cambodia provide
economic security**



**American Friends
Service Committee**

www.afsc.org



What's new on afsc.org

New web design!

We've spruced up the website with a new look and new features. Below are some highlights:

Volunteer with AFSC

View our up-to-date listings of service opportunities, internships, and fellowships. www.afsc.org/volunteering



Melissa K. Elliott

LGBT rights and recognition

Read or download new resources about peace activism, lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender and faith communities, and queer youth and the military. www.afsc.org/lgbt

Palestinian-Israeli conflict

Learn about peacebuilding work in the region. www.afsc.org/israel-palestine

And, as always, you can find *Quaker Action* on the web at www.afsc.org/news/quaker-action.htm

On the cover:

A man stands in front of the AFSC-Haiti Health and Training Center *Lespwa* (Hope) in Irois province, Haiti. This program focuses on health education and prevention through the work of community health agents.

Cover photo by Denise Davis

Corrections

In the Winter 2004 issue, we misspelled the artist's name (page seven). The correct spelling is Parris Stancell.

Many of you wrote to ask if *Quaker Action* is printed on recycled paper. It is. We apologize for not including the recycle symbol.

Who we are

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian service. Its work is based on the belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice.

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The building blocks of change

2004 elections energize AFSC's work for peace & justice



Change is usually a slow process, filled with false starts and setbacks. But sometimes, an opportunity to take a step forward comes along. The 2004 elections are such an opportunity.

As the peace and justice movement's core issues get shunted down the list of national priorities, we must find ways to engage the public and stimulate debate about key concerns—demilitarization, immigrants' rights, the protection of civil liberties, and economic security for all, to name a few.

AFSC and its numerous partner organizations are doing just that through an extensive program of voter registration, education, and mobilization that will build AFSC's capacity to advance our issues long after Election Day.

On this and the following two pages, you'll read highlights of this bold undertaking.

Our efforts can transform the social, political, cultural, and economic landscape, but we need your help to make it happen. See you at the polls.

Elections info is a click away

At www.afsc.org/vote, you can register to vote, find your polling place, and get answers to questions such as:

- **When is the last day to register to vote?**
- **I moved since I last registered. Do I need to re-register?**
- **I am a college student. Where do I vote?**
- **What if I can't make it to my polling place on Election Day?**
- **How do I find info on the candidates and their positions?**



Opportunity knocks...twice

AFSC will highlight key issues during political conventions

Two guaranteed magnets of attention—the Democratic and Republican National Conventions—will soon arrive, and AFSC wants to help minimize the hype and maximize the debate about substantive issues.

Boston The weekend prior to July's Democratic National Convention (DNC), AFSC staff in Cambridge will be busy raising many of AFSC's core issues at the Boston Social Forum, which hopes to attract hundreds of activists, interested community members, and DNC delegates. They will exchange ideas, challenge the status quo, and become part of the global process to build a better, more human-centered society.

Specifically, AFSC is organizing an international peace conference that will be the centerpiece of the forum. Staff also are putting together workshops on immigrants' rights, fair trade, and issues related to water rights and privatization.

Furthermore, AFSC's traveling exhibit exposing the human costs of the Iraq war, "Eyes Wide Open," will be in Boston during the forum and DNC.

Youth-centered organizing is also on the agenda, with staff planning an Active Arts Youth Conference during the forum. It will include hip-hop music performances and workshops on HIV/AIDS, globalization, and economics for young people. During the DNC itself, an outdoor rally/concert will emphasize the importance of voter registration.

New York City As of press time, AFSC staff were meeting with community members to determine what niche to fill among the hundreds of groups planning events during the Republican convention in late August/early September. Sponsoring cultural events and initiating a peace-related mural are high on the list of possibilities.

"We want to make sure we convey a positive message developed by our constituents—one that interconnects platforms, policies, and people," says Elizabeth Enloe, regional director of AFSC's New York Metropolitan Region.

'I want to vote'

AFSC works to re-enfranchise former prisoners

"I'm writing on President's Day," began the letter from a former prisoner in Ohio, "and I want to vote."

The letter, sent to AFSC's Ohio Criminal Justice Program in Dayton, is just one example that highlights the desire of many people who have been in prison to exercise their right to vote.

"There's an assumption that people in prison are apathetic, but that's not true," says Jana Schroeder, director of the program.

Unfortunately, due to differing state laws, people who have been incarcerated often are misinformed about their voting rights.

Jana notes that many former prisoners in Ohio think they can never vote again. That's the case in neighboring Kentucky, but Ohio law is not so extreme.

In fact, Ohio law allows absentee voting by people in jail who are awaiting trial or serving sentences for misdemeanors.

Since 1997, the Criminal Justice Program in Dayton has published resource guides on the voting rights of former prisoners and persons in Ohio jails. This year, the program is stepping up its efforts by making presentations to eligible voters in county jails and educating volunteers with groups that help people register to vote statewide. The pro-

gram also is putting stacks of voting rights resource guides in job centers, parole and probation offices, and other places where people who have been in prison are likely to go.

A number of AFSC offices have similar initiatives. Staff in West Virginia, for example, will educate people who have been incarcerated about the voting laws in that state.

"As we state in our voter guides," Jana says, "voting won't solve all the

country's problems, but it is one way to express your opinion and participate in the democratic process."

For a state-by-state breakdown of the voting rights of people with criminal convictions, check out www.righttovote.org. Right to Vote is a nonprofit group working to remove the voting barriers faced by people with felony convictions.

Ballot box

AFSC election-related highlights

In addition to the projects featured in the preceding stories, AFSC offices throughout the United States are busy with voter registration and education efforts that focus on disenfranchised populations and religious groups. Examples of that work include the following:

Denver, Colorado Registering the homeless to vote by using shelters as their primary address.

San Francisco, California Working toward 100 percent voter registration at fifty-five neighborhood meetings in cooperation with the Friends Committee on National Legislation, with voter mobilization work to follow; registering the homeless to vote.



Portland, Oregon Focusing on Asian voter registration and education in partnership with Asian community leaders.

Seattle, Washington Organizing voter registration and education programs for Native Americans and gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youths.

Kansas City, Missouri Concentrating on voter education among people of various religious groups.

Washington, D.C. Promoting civic participation among people of various faiths in conjunction with a national interfaith alliance.

Atlanta, Georgia Focusing on voter education and mobilization.

Missing at the polls

Youth programs tap into a huge electoral resource



It's a tremendous, largely untapped resource: the 23.9 million U.S. citizens 18-to-25 who are eligible to vote. In 2000, fewer than half went to the polls. But with a concerted effort, that can change. Studies show that simply asking young people to vote raises the likelihood they will do so by 8-to-12 percentage points.*

Throughout the country, AFSC youth programs are priming the pump of that deep electoral well by incorporating voter education, registration, and mobilization into their ongoing work.



Graphic (top): front of a “get-out-the-vote” postcard aimed at young people.

Photos: AFSC will promote voter registration and education to young people throughout the summer and fall at events such as the recent Beats for Peace hip-hop concert in Boston (above) and the March for Women's Lives (left).

- Organizers in **Boston** are running voter registration and education workshops in local high schools and working with hip-hop musicians to link youth culture with political involvement through concerts and forums.
- Youth staff and interns are driving the work in **Chicago, Denver, and Syracuse** to educate and mobilize voters, connecting the November elections to issues such as military recruiting in public schools and the impact of U.S. foreign policy.
- AFSC gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth programs are providing

voter registration and education at youth events in school outreach programs in **Seattle**.

- Asian American youth are supporting Asian voter education and registration in **Portland**, including the translation of “get-out-the-vote” materials into a number of different languages.
- AFSC staff in **Atlanta** are working to increase voter empowerment at historically black universities and colleges throughout the South.

- In **Philadelphia**, National Office staff are partnering with a number of national networks and coalitions, including the National Youth & Student Peace Coalition, to support a presence of youth and student voices for peace and justice at both of this summer's national political conventions.

The work that AFSC and others are doing with youth is critical. This key population represents more than the next generation of voters—they're the future of the peace and social justice movement.

* Source: The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement.

IRAQ

What lies ahead?

After a year in Baghdad, AFSC staff reflect on a

Since May 2003, Rick McDowell and Mary Trotochaud, AFSC Iraq Country Representatives, have lived in a neighborhood of Baghdad. Following a U.S. speaking tour in March, Rick and Mary went back but were forced temporarily to evacuate shortly thereafter when the level of violence and kidnappings escalated.

As of this writing, Rick and Mary had just returned to Baghdad from Amman, Jordan, where they were waiting for the situation in Iraq to stabilize so they could continue their work — providing online accounts of life under occupation, engaging in relief efforts, and supporting Iraq's emerging civil society.

A year after they began work for AFSC in Baghdad, Rick and Mary reflect on the importance of AFSC's presence in Iraq, the failure of the U.S.-led occupation, the upcoming June 30 turnover of power, and the inspiring grassroots efforts to rebuild Iraq that they've witnessed.

During your speaking tour earlier this year, what did you try to convey about life in Baghdad under the occupation?

Rick: We tried to give audiences a sense of what it was like to live beside Iraqis in a residential neighborhood—to wake up in the morning to sounds of explosions and automatic gunfire; to worry when friends are late wondering if they've become collateral damage to a failed occupation.

With increasing attacks by suicide bombers and deliberate attacks on Iraqis who are seen as collaborators, Iraqis don't feel safe on the streets. Iraqis say, "The coalition forces can't protect themselves. What can they do for us?"

Please say a bit about the work you've done in Iraq this past year.

Mary: Years of economic sanctions and war isolated the Iraqi people. They have the abilities but lack the structures, resources, practices,



An oud player entertains a U.S. delegation of musicians and clerics hosted by Rick and Mary.

and skills of a strong civil society.

Following the AFSC tradition of working with local organizations, our work in postwar Iraq has centered on supporting the work of emerging nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

One such group is the Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq

Eyes Wide Open

As the tragic consequences of the Iraq war become more apparent everyday, a traveling AFSC exhibit dramatically and movingly highlights the war's human and economic costs.

The "Eyes Wide Open" exhibit, organized by AFSC's Chicago office, uses words, images, and sounds to move visitors through vivid memorials to the war's victims, expose the truth about the original justifications for the war, and reveal the terrible price being paid by both Iraqis and people in the United States. The exhibit also provides an interactive, easy way to help change the course of U.S. policies.

The exhibit includes:

- A pair of boots for each U.S. soldier killed in the war
- A memorial to Iraqi civilians killed in the war, the first such tribute on U.S. soil
- A ticker that shows the rapid growth of U.S. military spending in the war in Iraq

The exhibit debuted in Chicago and has traveled throughout Ohio and Illinois. Recently the exhibit received national attention when it spent two days near the U.S. capitol in Washington, D.C. Over the July 4th weekend, it will be in Philadelphia before being shown in Boston during the Democratic National Convention.



Find out if the "Eyes Wide Open" exhibit will be in your area and experience some of its dramatic sensory impact online at eyes.peacechicago.org.

In addition to a virtual tour of the exhibit, you also can sign up to host "Eyes Wide Open" in your area.

(OWFI). OWFI was initiated by a group of women forced to leave Iraq in the early 1990s because of their political work for women's and children's rights. They returned when the regime fell and were immediately confronted with significantly worse conditions for women, especially those in the many homeless camps that have sprung up. In Baghdad alone there are more than 70,000 people living in these camps.

Realizing that people cannot address advocacy issues when they lack the basic necessities of food,



Mary at a home for street children. AFSC purchased beds, heaters, fuel, food, and other items for the home.

water, sanitation, and shelter, OWFI initiated relief projects in the camps. AFSC has helped them with, among other things, providing shoes for children, cooking fuel, medicines, hygiene kits, and clean-up projects.

Are there less tangible effects of AFSC's presence in Iraq?

Mary: Probably most significantly, AFSC represents an American alternative to the violence of the U.S.-led war and occupation. Fur-

thermore, when we first arrived in Iraq, we were told by many Iraqis how important the anti-war movement and protests had been to them.

They explained, "We were happy to see the regime fall but the protests gave us hope. During sanctions we thought the world had abandoned us." AFSC's continuing presence and work in Iraq help serve, in some small way, as a reminder that the world has not abandoned the people of Iraq.

Can you talk about the critical issues facing Iraq as the turnover of power approaches?

Rick: I see those issues as the lack of security, chaos, and the power vacuum. The people of Iraq have no history with democracy. Democracy doesn't just happen. It is learned and must be wanted. No one has bothered to ask the people of Iraq what kind of government they want to live under.

Another concern is the emergence of well-armed militants and the estimated 200 militias. The United States, through its actions, has empowered a formerly insignificant cleric, Muktada al-Sadr. Mr. Sadr has a well-armed militia and is committed to an Islamic revolution along the lines followed in Iran.



Christmas celebration at Bethany House, a home for women with disabilities. AFSC has supported several projects at Bethany.

What can we in the United States do to help the people of Iraq as they make the transition to autonomous rule?

Rick: Stay involved. Demand accountability and transparency from members of Congress and the U.S. administration. What is the real cost of the war in lives, casualties, and dollars? What are the administration's long-term plans for Iraq? How long will U.S. troops be stationed in Iraq?

Demand that the UN immediately replace the Coalition Provisional Authority in managing the transition from occupation to a fully empowered and sovereign Iraq.

As long as the crisis continues, send donations to AFSC or other relief efforts.

Pray.



Read more about Rick and Mary's work and experiences in Iraq at www.afsc.org/iraq.

Mary Trotochaud and Rick McDowell, AFSC Iraq Country Representatives.

Photos: Terry Foss

News from around AFSC

YOUTH

Beats for Peace goes on tour

Once again this summer, AFSC will be on the concert circuit with Beats for Peace. A collaboration of AFSC youth programs across the country, Beats for Peace uses hip hop, the arts, and spoken word to mobilize young people to work for peace and justice in their communities. Issues currently being addressed include military recruitment of youth of color and cuts in education and housing even as we pay for military expansion. In late June, youth staff and volunteers from Boston, Oakland, and Philadelphia will give arts and activism workshops at the National Hip Hop Political Convention in Newark. The New England Region's Critical Breakdown program will host its second Active Arts conference at the Boston Social Forum leading up to the Democratic National Convention in Boston. Events are also planned for August at the Republican National Convention in New York and during the early fall in Portland and San Diego.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

AFSC opposes major economic trade pact

On April 1, AFSC's Board of Directors announced its opposition to the Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). Part of the Board statement reads: "Even if some aspects of the proposal may improve the lives of some people, other features of CAFTA will undermine democratic processes, workers, and human rights, to the extent that we cannot support it."



Beats for Peace mural that traveled with the 2003 tour.

While fair trade in the Western Hemisphere is an achievable goal, AFSC staff note that critical provisions in the final CAFTA text do not promote a more just, sustainable, and prosperous human society.

For an analysis of the problems with CAFTA and other trade-related issues, go to www.afsc.org/trade.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Helping victims of N. Korean train disaster

In response to the massive train explosion near Ryongchon, North Korea, this past April, AFSC made a contribution to the US-DPRK Medical Science Exchange Committee (U-DMEDEX). The contribution helped defray the costs of a shipment of emergency medical supplies to North Korea. The shipment included antibiotics, disinfectants, suture sets, IV sets, wound dressings, pain medications and anesthetics. The

DPRK Overseas Compatriots Aid Committee arranged for immediate trucking to the Ryongchon area and Sinuiju hospitals where the injured are being treated.

PEACE

AFSC's mobilization for peace and security

With the support of the Ford Foundation, AFSC is working in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Missouri, and Arizona to ensure that the voices of marginalized communities are heard in public deliberations and to bolster civic participation in low-income and minority communities often overlooked by decision makers and the media. The two-phase program began with listening projects that focus on how various communities understand issues of peace and security. (Listening projects are open-ended surveys in which trained listeners conduct in-depth interviews with a variety of people to find constructive ways of dealing with social problems.) The findings will be analyzed and

shared through public events directed and organized by the communities where the project is taking place.

More information, and initial findings from the listening projects, is available online at www.afsc.org/listeningproject. You can also take part in the online listening project.

PEACE

Lessons from South Africa, Rwanda, and Mozambique

From April 14-26, a group of U.S. activists visited South Africa, Rwanda, and Mozambique as part of AFSC's Peace, Reconciliation, and Justice Study Tour. Participants learned much about the twin legacies of apartheid and genocide, the ravages of HIV/AIDS on the continent, and other complex issues of economic justice and reconciliation.

One highlight of the trip was a meeting with Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge,



Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge (left) and Jeremy Routledge.

Deputy Minister of Health for South Africa and a prominent Quaker. She had been Deputy Minister of Defense, and her appointment had shifted the

understanding of national security in South Africa.

"We must understand that economic inequality is a major cause of war and that peace is not brought about by preparation for war," she noted. "Peace can only be achieved if governments and people are willing to address the basic needs of people: to eliminate inequality and poverty and provide education and health care to all."

Participants' reflections are online at www.afsc.org/africa/new-africa.

TAKE ACTION

Help create a respectful dialogue about same-sex marriage

People of faith and good conscience disagree about equal civil marriage rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people...but does disagreement mean we must go to war over those differences? We think not.



To encourage alternatives to the demonizing and destructive "cultural war" that is being promoted by many conservative religious groups, AFSC has launched a national campaign called "Peace Building in a Time of Cultural War."

The campaign seeks to bring a non-polarizing spiritual voice to the marriage debate and to provide space and encouragement for people of faith to remain true to their religious beliefs, while resisting efforts to encode the principle of inequality into civil law.

Earlier this spring, AFSC sponsored a ground-breaking series of online dialogues where hundreds of people, with very different views on the topic, talked openly and listened respectfully—demonstrating that the "cultural war" can be disarmed.

Join us in the campaign and help spread the peacebuilding message to your faith community.

Visit the new section of our web site at www.afsc.org/build-peace and download our free resources:

- handouts for use at religious and community gatherings
- sample letters to the editor
- buttons and stickers

Join AFSC's letter writing campaign for welfare reform

Letters to the editor are a powerful form of advocacy. They raise awareness in your community and remind your members of Congress about issues your community cares about.

AFSC has created a new section on its website where you can learn more about our letter writing campaign for welfare reform, including

- suggestions for writing letters
- sample letters that you can download
- contact information for your regional newspaper

Find out how you can get involved at www.afsc.org/welfarevoter/editor-letters.htm.

The gift of self-renewal

A family foundation gives so others can help themselves

When interviewed about the support his family's foundation has given to AFSC, Alex Scott admitted he was embarrassed. The spotlight, it's clear, is not something he or his family craves.

Instead, they prefer to work behind the scenes. And that's what the G. Mildred and A. Foster Scott Charitable Foundation has done by quietly approving grants for the work of AFSC programs in Haiti and Bosnia/Herzegovina.

Alex, a retired social worker and an AFSC work camp volunteer in France and Germany in 1954, wanted to contribute to programs that most needed an infusion of money. "And these were two programs that dealt with self-renewal," he says. "I liked that.

"With many AFSC programs, there's a focus on what needs to be

done and finding resources to get it done," Alex adds. "AFSC then trains local people to do the work. Money is used in regenerative ways."

That description fits the work in Haiti and Bosnia/Herzegovina perfectly.

Improving the quality of life

AFSC's work in Haiti includes the Haiti Health and Training Center Lespwa, which promotes health education and prevention through the work of *agents de santé* (community health agents).

Meanwhile, the education and economic development program concentrates on adult literacy, community organizing, reforestation, animal rearing, and support to local economic development projects.

In Bosnia/Herzegovina, AFSC began the Community Gardening Project in early 2000 to provide a safe and supportive space where people from different ethnicities could work side-by-side to grow food for themselves and their families.

The gardens provide material support to people left with little or nothing after the 1992-1995 civil war and offer a rare opportunity for people from different ethnic groups to interact in a secure setting.



Sarejevo: Children learn how to garden.

Both programs' approaches to development work dovetails with Alex's inclination to provide direct help to others, an urge that runs deep in the Scott family.

"My parents were simple folks, but they had a strong commitment to doing things for others—driving people to the store or hospital, for example," Alex recalls.

When his father, Foster, realized that his stock holdings were worth a considerable sum, he was determined to use the money in socially responsible ways. After Foster died, Alex and his mother honored that wish by starting the Philadelphia-based foundation, which was funded in 1999.

Alex and his wife, Anne—members of the Radnor (Pa.) Friends Meeting—are part of a group of trustees who make grant decisions. Alex notes, "It's nice that I can contribute to the things to which I'm committed."

More information about AFSC's work in Haiti and Bosnia/Herzegovina is available online at www.afsc.org/latinamerica and www.afsc.org/europe.



Haiti: Reforestation project



Land of the free?

Detained immigrants struggle to find asylum in the U.S.

In September 2000, eighteen-year old Abdulai Bah arrived at Newark International Airport in New Jersey. He was desperate, scared, and alone, on the run from the civil war that was then raging in his native Sierra Leone.

Abdulai was undocumented and officials at the airport questioned, fingerprinted, handcuffed, and took him to the Elizabeth (New Jersey) Immigration Detention Center. Abdulai spent nearly four months in detention before Marguerite Marty, the staff attorney with AFSC's Immigrant Rights Program in Newark, New Jersey, helped him secure asylum.

Despite his ordeal, Abdulai says he was lucky. "I knew people still in detention when I left, and most of them were sent back to their countries," says Abdulai, who's now in school, working, and committed to educating people about the experiences and effects of detention on asylum seekers.

A big "if"

AFSC staff in Newark agree that Abdulai's case was unusual. The average stay in detention, for example, is six to eight months. Many detainees also have nowhere to go if they're granted asylum—an increasingly big "if" since 9/11.

"There's been a huge increase in the number of people getting picked up and detained, but a decrease in the number of people getting asylum," Marguerite says. "It makes a difference if you have a lawyer."

Newark staff work on the legal cases of a limited number of Eliza-

beth Detention Center detainees, refer many others to lawyers, and help those granted asylum get settled in the United States.

Staff also make know-your-rights presentations at the detention center and answer the questions of detainees and their families. The program helps asylee* associations to network and advocate for themselves.

AFSC's services are welcomed by detainees who deal with multiple frustrations. At the top of the list is the open-ended nature of detention. "You don't know how long it will be," Abdulai recalls.

In addition, conditions at the Elizabeth Detention Center are harsh: detainees sleep in large rooms with thirty or forty others, everyone wears a "uniform," there's



Abdulai Bah

no outdoor facility, and detainees must talk via phone to visitors who sit on the other side of a glass partition.

Furthermore, asylees know little about how to access the services necessary to establish new lives in the

United States, notes Will Coley, the project coordinator who oversees the Newark office's transitional emergency assistance program.

The project helps asylees with details such as getting working papers in order, finding a job and a place to live, and obtaining a driver's license.

As Will notes, "Knowing that we helped someone effectively start over is very rewarding."

**An asylee is a person already in the U.S. whose legal status is based on a claim of persecution or feared persecution in her/his home country.*

Asylum ABCs

Any documented or undocumented immigrant who enters the United States may request asylum. To obtain asylum, they must prove that they have been persecuted in the past or fear persecution on account of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group.

The process of applying for asylum is complex. It requires filling out various forms, gathering documents and evidence, and the assistance of an immigration attorney. This is much more difficult if the applicant is detained. In 2002, a total of 9,260 arriving asylum seekers were detained.

By the numbers

A quick look at asylum statistics confirms that Abdulai Bah's case beat the odds. **Between 1989 and September 2003**, here's how immigration judges decided the cases of both detained and non-detained asylum seekers*:

Granted: 78,819 Denied: 217,705 Pending (as of Sept. 2003): 72,745

*Source: Refugee Reports, Vol. 22, Number 12, December 2003. www.refugees.org



A buffalo you can take to the bank

Animal 'banks' in Cambodia provide economic security

Sturdy draught animals remain a lynchpin of economic security and food production in rural societies around the world. Few animals are sturdier or more reliable than the water buffalo, which can plow, assist in clearing land, and carry heavy burdens. In Cambodia's Kong Province, AFSC is using water buffalo and collaboration among villagers to bring economic security to some of the province's most impoverished villages.

Since 2000, animal banks for water buffalo have been founded in seven villages by AFSC's Integrated Sustainable Livelihoods Program. From the initial buffalo provided by AFSC, 45 calves have been born and distributed to members of each bank. So far more than 120 families have received an adult buffalo or calf.

In addition to the improvement of each family's standard of living, participants benefit greatly from the support and wisdom of other bank members. In many instances, women who previously sold their labor at a disadvantage in exchange for plowing have received help in plowing from members of their group. Other women have benefited when their husbands use the buffalo to gather fire wood, which was previously considered light work that should be managed by women.



AFSC began working in Cambodia in 1979. A decade of war and turmoil, including four years of the brutal Khmer Rouge regime, had left millions of people dead. Through the 1980s, when Cambodia was denied access to UN and western development assistance, AFSC was one of a small group of western NGOs working to help restore basic systems of government and to provide economic development assistance.



Photos: Working in one of Cambodia's most isolated areas, AFSC's Integrated Sustainable Livelihoods Program promotes animal banks, new rice seed varieties, and improved agricultural techniques. Staff members also train Village Livestock Agents in animal immunization and health, and provide the starting capital for community-based rice banks and micro-credit projects.



The lost prophet

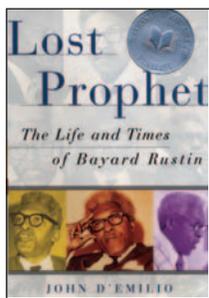
New works reexamine the life and contributions of Bayard Rustin

BY WALTER NAEGLE

Bayard Rustin was a complex man of many talents: stirring orator, a gifted tenor, a Quaker, an African American functioning in largely white circles, a relatively open gay man, an exceptional strategist and activist. Yet Rustin was largely unknown outside of activist circles until his masterful organization of the 1963 March on Washington, one of the best-remembered events of the Civil Rights Movement.

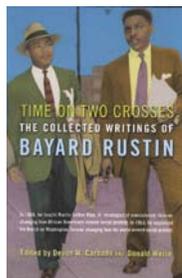
During the previous three decades, Rustin worked for civil rights and on issues of peace and economic justice. He also had long-standing associations with AFSC and other Quaker groups. For example, he played a pivotal role in the creation of *Speak Truth to Power*, the AFSC document that challenged the future of American foreign policy at the dawn of the atomic age and the Cold War.

His many accomplishments and qualities have made Rustin an attractive figure for study. Since 1997, three full-length biographies, a young person's biography, a collection of his writings, and a documentary have been produced—three of these in 2003 alone.



Lost Prophet: The Life and Times of Bayard Rustin (John D'Emilio, Free Press, 2003, 352 pp., \$35, hardcover)

The most comprehensive look at Rustin's life to date, *Lost Prophet* places his social and political development within the context of a rapidly changing world. The perspective of D'Emilio, a professor of history and gender and women's studies, is influenced by his involvement in the anti-war and gay rights movements.



Time on Two Crosses: The Collected Writings of Bayard Rustin

(Devon W. Carballo and Donald Weise, editors, Cleise Press, 2003, 354 pp.,

\$16.95, paperback)

Time on Two Crosses assembles more than forty-five works in Rustin's own words, together with an extensive biographical introduction. The collection incorporates writings published in 1971's *Down the Line* and gives a more expansive view of Rustin's ideas, particularly on human rights issues that were central during his last decade.

The documentary film **Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin** (Nancy Kates and Bennett Singer [producers/directors], *Question Why Films*) premiered on PBS's P.O.V. series on Martin Luther King Day, 2003. Combining rare archival footage, interviews, and Rustin's renditions of spirituals and freedom songs, the film traces his half-century of activism. It has inspired audiences worldwide and won

numerous "audience favorite" awards at film festivals. For more information, visit www.rustin.org.

All of these works have heightened awareness of Bayard Rustin's important contributions to social change movements. They share a focus on his formative years and, especially, his work with the African American civil rights struggle. His later involvement with human rights work, refugee affairs, and democracy movements warrants further study so as to complete the story of his evolution from protest to politics.



Photo: Jerry Goldman

Walter Naegle (right) was Bayard Rustin's partner from 1977-87, and the executor of his estate. He is a member of AFSC's New York Metropolitan Regional Office Executive Committee.

If you have recommendations you would like to share, please send the title of the item and a short paragraph about what makes it commendable to: recommendations@afsc.org.



Who Says One Person Can't Make a Difference?

A message from AFSC General Secretary Mary Ellen McNish

Last year, John File, a fellow member of Byberry Friends Meeting, spoke about an article he had read in Parade Magazine. The article described a mountain climber getting hurt during a climb in Nepal. The man's Sherpa guide carried him on his back for five days to the nearest town to get medical attention. The man, in gratitude, built a school in the Sherpa's town!

John was so inspired by this story that he asked why we couldn't do something like that at Byberry. People in the meeting thought it was interesting but the idea didn't go anywhere. However, John was persistent—he didn't want to give up.

Knowing that AFSC had a school construction program in Afghanistan, I suggested John call Alice Andrews, of our Asia Desk.

After talking with Alice about AFSC's program to build village schools to educate both boys and girls, John became even more inspired. He reaffirmed his idea and brought a proposal to the meeting to raise \$50,000 to fund an AFSC school in Afghanistan.

The meeting endorsed the idea and sent the proposal to Abington Quarterly Meeting, the gathering of the ten Quaker meetings in our area. The Quarterly Meeting enthusiastically approved the project. They

actually lifted the burden from John and took on the construction of a school as a project of the entire Quarterly Meeting.

The project has created a great deal of excitement in Abington Quarter of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. With more than 75 percent of the money already in hand, an enthusiastic committee is at work making sure the project succeeds.

As one donor said when she sent in her contribution, "Years from now the children who attend this school may remember that some Americans came in peace—without arms and without greed."

All it takes is one person. Thank you, John!

Mary Ellen McNish



REFLECTIONS

Peace Caravans

Young people spread the message of peace

In 1925, part of the new AFSC Peace Section focused on working with college students. A year later, groups of young Friends started traveling throughout the United States and talking about peace. By 1928, eleven teams of "peace caravans," as they were called, had formed, including an African American team.



The peace caravaners found much to occupy their time. Cars were purchased for each team. Punctures and engine trouble delayed them and sometimes used up much of their expense money. Appearing before church groups, Kiwanis Clubs, Women's Christian Temperance Unions, and other organizations sometimes led to close questioning of the students' motives and their message of peace.

While they were at their peak in the 1920s and 30s, the caravans continued into the 1960s, a testament to their popularity and effectiveness.



The Intrepid Quaker: One Man's Quest for Peace

The memoirs, speeches, and writings of long-time AFSC staffer and board member Steve Cary reveal leadership and philosophy that mirror the Quaker experience in education

and peace work in the latter half of the twentieth century. Hardcover, 337 pages. **\$20.**



Revista Futuros

This Spanish-language electronic

magazine provides a forum for sharing analyses, ideas, and proposals for developing a just, economically and environmentally sustainable vision of the future in Latin America and the Caribbean. It includes sections on democracy and development, sustainable development, human rights, prevention of conflict, and citizen diplomacy, along with book reviews. Available at www.revistafuturos.info.

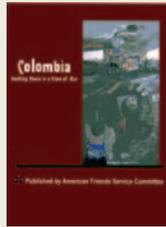
A CD-Rom with Volume 1 is available from the Latin America and Caribbean Program, iplac@afsc.org (e-mail) or (215) 241-7159.



Militarized Zones: Gender, Race, Immigration, Environment

Co-published by AFSC, this collection of articles explores how war-making is linked to racism, the criminalization of

immigrants, attacks on lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender communities, restrictions on reproductive freedom, and more. Softcover, 60 pages. Available for free download at www.afsc.org/militarized-zones. **Print copies: \$5** (plus \$1 shipping & handling). Order copies from AFSC Community Relations Unit, AFSC, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. (Sorry, only prepaid orders can be accepted.) Bulk rates available.



Colombia: Seeking Peace in a Time of War

Reflections and testimonies combined with art work and photographs offer powerful evidence of Colombians working toward a peaceful

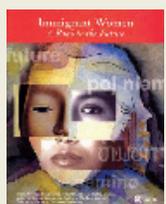
resolution of the conflict in that country. Softcover, 21 pages. **\$3** (\$2.50 if ordering more than 30 copies). Order from PBU/Latin America-Caribbean Program, 1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102; ncardona@afsc.org (e-mail); (215) 241-7162 (phone).

Bridging the Gap: Proposals and Precedents for Third Party Involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Past experience in the Middle East provides useful tools for the international community to use in helping resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. This new briefing paper from AFSC's Quaker United Nations Office in New York looks at five roles for third parties in conflict situations. This paper, and other QUNO publications, are available for free download at www.quno.org/publications.htm.

The Prison Inside the Prison: Control Units, Supermax Prisons, and Devices of Torture

This new Justice Visions briefing paper offers a deeper look at the steady proliferation of various types of isolation units throughout the U.S. prison system. **Print copies: \$1 each.** Also available for free download at www.afsc.org/community/justice-visions.



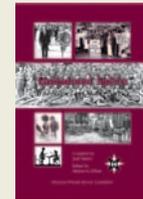
Immigrant Women: A Road to the Future

A collective history of immigrant women working together to build just and equitable communities in California's Central Valley. This book is not an

academic study — it is the living narration of a collective task and the expression of voices united in purpose. Published by AFSC's Pan Valley Institute. Softcover; English/Spanish; 160 pages. **\$15.**

We Felt Their Kindliness: An American Family's Afghan Odyssey 1949-1951

In 1949, Rebecca and Osborne Cresson and their two children moved to Afghanistan. For two years, while teaching and home-making, they recorded the scene around them in words and pictures. Proceeds benefit AFSC Afghan projects. Softcover; 253 pages. **\$20.**



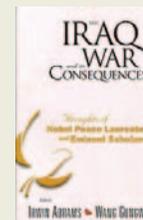
Undaunted Spirits: True Stories of Quaker Service

These vignettes from the AFSC's humanitarian service and long-range approaches to social reform offer glimpses into the vast expanse of the

AFSC's work during the past 85 years. Softcover, 84 pages. **\$15.**

Final Exposure: Portraits from Death Row

In photos and interviews, this collection brings readers face-to-face with twenty-seven women and men on death row. Published by AFSC. Softcover, 119 pages. **\$28.**



The Iraq War and Its Consequences

This recently published book brings together more than thirty Nobel Peace laureates and eminent scholars to offer opinions, analyses and insights on the Iraq war. Includes an essay by Mary

Ellen McNish, AFSC General Secretary. 464 pages. **\$34** (hardcover); **\$19** (softcover).



Youth & Student Foreign Policy Voter Guide

Produced by AFSC in collaboration with nearly a dozen other groups, this booklet gives young voters the tools, information, and resources necessary to send a clear message to U.S.

leaders that they want a more engaged and equitable foreign policy. Softcover, 22 pages.

Free. Copies of the guide can be downloaded from www.afsc.org/peace/peace-program/student-voter-guide.pdf. Call (215) 241-7199 for print copies.

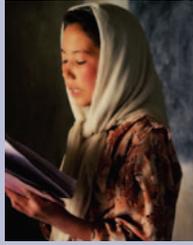
Unless otherwise noted, order through AFSC's Literature Resources Unit

1501 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102-1403

Phone: (215) 241-7048 (or toll-free 1-888-588-2372, ext. 2),

Fax: (215) 241-7275 or order online at www.afsc.org/resources

Be a Friend for their Future



Last year, 158 people made a bequest to the AFSC. In the last five years, another 794 people from all walks of life have become "Friends for the Future" by telling us that they have remembered AFSC in their estate plans.

AFSC values all bequests, whether large or small. Together, these gifts ensure the stability of AFSC's ongoing witness for peace, justice, and human dignity.

By remembering AFSC in your estate plan, you can reduce estate taxes and continue your commitment to Quaker service. Best of all, it's quite easy.

Ways to include AFSC in your estate plan

- Include AFSC as a beneficiary in your will.
- Include AFSC as a beneficiary in your living trust.
- Name AFSC as the beneficiary of your IRA or other retirement plan.
- Name AFSC as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy.

Photos: Top (from left to right): Jim Wasserman; Doug Hostetter; Terry Foss; Denise Davis
Top right: Mike Valoris. Bottom right: MAnnette Ruddell



“This is a very small bequest. Other people with more dollars and cents (and sense !?!) may be able to fund the grand thing. I have to think small. Most people want to give something more permanent or obvious. But I’m thinking of stamps or scotch tape or some grease for wheels to ease things in the effort.”

JO-MARIE RUDDELL
1917-2000



To learn more about becoming a “Friend for the Future” call Mike Valoris or Patrick Manion of our Gift Planning office at 1-888-588-2372, ext. 3, send an e-mail to GiftPlanning@afsc.org, or check the box on the enclosed reply envelope.



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