

For this year's
"Gifts with Heart & Hope"
see the center insert!

QuakerAction



Windows and Mirrors — Artists' Visions of War, see box page 2.



**American Friends
Service Committee**

www.afsc.org

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Greetings from the New General Secretary

Dear Friends,

As I settle into my new responsibilities as AFSC's General Secretary, I feel honored to be part of an organization with such a rich history of service and witness for peace. I am pleased to say that we continue that relentless witness today as we educate the public about the trillion dollars so tragically wasted on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. And we're inviting young people from across the country to share videos with their vision of what could be accomplished if we spent just a fraction of our war-making budget on addressing human needs in their communities.

I am always inspired by AFSC's ongoing programs that make a profound difference in communities struggling for the recognition, resources, and power they need and deserve. Whether we are engaging inner city youth in Seattle, prisoners and their families in Arizona, or teens from Khmer and Vietnamese families at the Cambodian border, AFSC builds on a foundation of respect for every person and appreciation for the contributions that each of us brings to the table.

We are enriched as we work side by side with our community partners, learning from the diverse traditions they represent. We have taken to heart the wisdom of Australian Aboriginal Elder Lilla Watso, who said, "If you've come here to help me, you're wasting your time. But if you've come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."

In this issue of *Quaker Action*, you will find stories of the partners and friends who are performing amazing

work in their neighborhoods and communities.

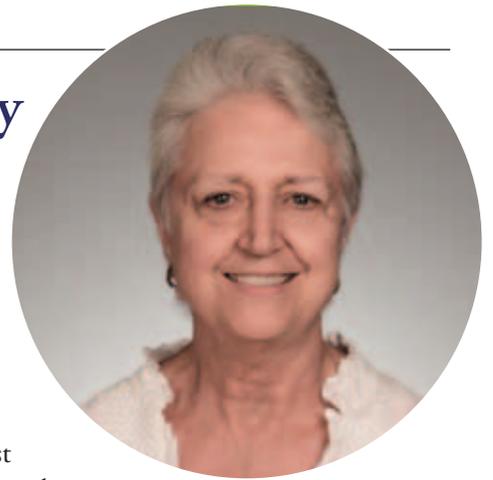
At their finest, AFSC programs bring about the best in others, linking people worldwide who are working to build lasting peace and alternatives to violence, poverty, and discrimination.

In sharing our work with you, I also express my heartfelt appreciation for you and all of our supporters who are truly partners in all that AFSC accomplishes. Those of us who have the privilege of working at the Service Committee look forward to our shared journey towards peace and justice in the years ahead.

Yours in peace,



Shan Cretin
General Secretary



PS. You can see even more inspiring examples at our programs at www.afsc.org/partners. And let me know what opportunities you see ahead by engaging online. You're welcome to visit www.afsc.org/quakeraction to see a video offering some of my ideas and to share ideas of your own.

Visions of the Afghanistan War

More than 40 artists from around the world contributed their vision as a memorial to the civilian casualties of the war in Afghanistan. *Windows and Mirrors* is a traveling exhibit that includes 45 panels, each 4' x 6'. Here is the schedule to date:

Oct. 7–Nov. 7, Philadelphia, PA

Friends Meetinghouse
4th & Arch Streets

Dec. 9–Jan. 30, 2011, Flushing, NY

Godwin-Ternbach Museum

Feb. 17–Mar. 17, 2011, Santa Monica, CA

Social & Public Art Resource Center

Feb. 17–Mar. 17, 2011, Los Angeles, CA

Mercado La Paloma

Mar. 27–Apr. 15, 2011, Greensboro, NC

Guilford College

Apr. 30–May 15, 2011, Chicago, IL

Columbia College

Dates subject to change. More sites to come. Please visit www.AFSC.org for updates.



Today's Peacemakers

AFSC programs around the world benefit from the energy, creativity, and inspiration of countless partners—Today's Peacemakers. We offer here profiles of some of those whose dedication to their communities and the betterment of the world give us hope.

Samantha Sanangurai lives in Harare, Zimbabwe. She notes that her mother, who is an activist working with orphaned and vulnerable children, “Gave me the first practical education on social injustice in our country. Her unwavering belief in the equality of everyone and their valued contribution to peace spurs me to work for peace and justice.” In AFSC, Samantha found compatible values and practical ways to help the young people in her Hatcliffe community. It is overcrowded with marginal housing, and it constantly encounters problems getting basic services such as water and electricity. Many of the residents of Hatcliffe suffered from politically inspired terrorism but, as Samantha says, “They

would like to see their neighborhoods become safe again and they aspire to better life opportunities where their rights are recognized by the state.” Towards those ends, she works in conflict transformation, as well as the livelihood project which provides training to enhance skills and economic stability. As she moves through her day-to-day activities, Samantha remembers that, “No one person is better than the other. It is our mission to strive for equality for all persons.”

In Guatemala, **Marco Antonio Castillo** leads an organization called Grupo Ceiba. It works with youth in low-income communities that are often marked by violence. He believes that, “Every child has a star. Our work is to help them reach it.” With AFSC, Marco has developed “urban peace platforms” and uses a mobile unit called “The Peace Donkey” that travels to some seventeen neighborhoods. The goal is to break the cycles of hopelessness, frustration, alienation, and violence in those communities. Marco notes, “I get inspired

by hope and the meaning of life. And I hope that every youth who comes to Ceiba finds a house of open doors and windows, a peace sanctuary. I have a deep trust in young people’s kindness and believe in their strength to change things.”

The “Committee” in American Friends Service Committee is real. Just ask **Ponchita Argieard** who is serving her sixth year on the St. Louis Area Program Committee. She found out about AFSC through word-of-mouth, attended an event, and found that the organization resonated with her own interests and values. Ponchita has studied renowned civil rights and justice leaders such as Ida B. Wells and Fannie Lou Hamer, and draws inspiration from them. She’s a school social worker which brings her into daily contact with society’s struggles. One particular concern is the death penalty which disproportionately affects the poor and people of color. Ponchita says, “All lives have meaning. Even if a person did a terrible crime, their life still has value.” Twice she has



Ponchita Argieard



Marco Castillo



Ron Faust

participated in the death penalty moratorium day at the Missouri state capitol in Jefferson City. She encourages people to, “Raise your consciousness. It makes you more aware of others and your relationship to them and vice versa. That’s what I’m working on!”

“Whether with a group of children in the classroom or at a peace camp, a group creating quilts for those in need of comfort, or hosting a teachers’ retreat, when the group bonds and that special dynamic is created, I feel that the Spirit is working among us.” So says **Susan Hopkins**, a long-time volunteer and AFSC donor. She recognizes that one way to live one’s values is to support the organizations you care about. “I see myself as a philanthropist. No group can do its work without funding and I see that role as one I can play at this stage of my life.”

Student **Yotam Amit** has worked on Israel/Palestine issues for years, following in the footsteps of his father who was arrested at age 12 when he took part in an anti-war demonstration in Israel. He has a firm grasp on the complexity of the Middle East situation and takes the long view as he helps one side to see the viewpoint of the other. “When Americans, both Jewish and non-Jewish, are exposed to the Palestinian narrative in some way they find compelling, it can

force them to redefine the conflict, ultimately making peace and justice seem much more attainable.” In his work, Yotam has learned to be patient, to be confident but soft-spoken, and to be informed. And, he says, “Use humor. Be prepared to feel like you’re banging your head against a wall. Avoid actually banging your head against a wall!” Yotam has been associated with AFSC’s Chicago office for four years, appreciating a shared vision of peace and social justice for Israelis and Palestinians alike. “Every time even a single person ceases to view either side as the enemy and instead comes to see the conflict as the enemy of both sides, it’s a great victory.”

A minister, writer, and activist, **Ron Faust** probably doesn’t get much time on the water to enjoy his sailing hobby. In his Kansas City-area community, he found AFSC to be the “best organization for engaging in peace activities.” As with other Today’s Peacemakers, Ron calls on his own family for inspiration. “My grandfather was a model of gentleness.” And he credits the actions, speeches, and writings of Martin Luther King, Jr. as further sources of inspiration. Ron serves on many task forces and brings energy and commitment to all of them. He is guided in his life by a favorite Bible passage, Amos 5:24: “Let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an overflowing stream.” 3599

Second Graders Making a Difference in the World

For the past four years Chris Hoeh, second grade teacher at the Cambridge Friends School in Massachusetts, has done something quite amazing. He has inspired, taught, and guided each of his classes in some wonderful life lessons. His integrated social studies curriculum is centered on the ordinary cotton seed.

As the school year begins, the kids examine the tags on their clothing and graph this data. They discover that over 90% of their clothing is made of cotton. This leads to an investigation of the history, geography, and origins of cotton, which takes them to the continent of Africa with its diverse and vibrant nations. The children discover the many similarities between their lives and those of African children.

As the year progresses, they move to U.S. history and how essential cotton was to our economy and how slavery and racial injustice were connected. Their study of slavery focuses on the black resistance, black intellectual achievement, abolitionists, and the role of Quakers in this struggle. They learn that Gandhi spun cotton for at least an hour each day and that indigenous Guatemalans developed a sophisticated technique for weaving cotton cloth using a backstrap loom. The students learn that the first factories in the U.S. manufactured cloth. Although the workers in these factories came from many ethnic backgrounds, they joined together to form unions to fight for better wages and working conditions; garment makers toiling in sweatshops did the same thing.

Towards the end of the year, the second graders are taught how cotton is used today and learn about different parts of the world where there are still sweatshops that produce cotton products. As part of



News from around AFSC



At Cambridge Friends School, Massachusetts, second grade teacher Chris Hoeh shows students examples of t-shirts sold to raise money for AFSC's Material Assistance Program.

their lessons in economics, the children make a collaborative design (see photo) and develop a t-shirt (sweat free, of course) which they sell. They learn about advertising and sales, and how to keep track of orders. At the end of the course, they have touched on world history, U.S. history, racial differences, justice issues, math, and geography.

The class has donated the proceeds of the sale to AFSC's Material Assistance Program in New England for the past four years. The class then takes a field trip to the site to visit, donate unclaimed Lost and Found items from their school, and volunteer. This year the Service Committee received \$2,000 from these seven-year old movers and shakers! With the help of their dedicated teacher, these students are well on their way to contributing to a more peaceful world.

Haiti: Looking Forward

In earthquake-stricken Haiti, AFSC is strengthening capacities for residents of "urban camps" to reduce potential violence. The starting point is establishing "safe spaces" by setting up a large, mobile community tent in two pilot projects, one in Port-au-Prince and one in Leogane about 24 miles from the capital. Consultants in trauma healing and conflict mediation work with and train local organizations and camp leaders. AFSC is opening an office in Port-au-Prince and hiring a Haiti Country Representative, renewing a decades-old involvement in that country.

Jorge Laffite, AFSC's director in Latin America, works jointly with AFSC's Miami-based staffer Paul-Andre Mondesir to fulfill the local Haitian community's desire to help rebuild Port-au-Prince and to keep the Miami Haitian Diaspora informed on progress achieved.

Youth for Change: The Seattle Freedom School

This summer, eighty youth participated in two sessions of the 10th annual Tyre Scott Freedom School in Seattle. Grounded in the freedom schools of the 1960s in Mississippi and named for a legendary

Seattle organizer and activist, the week-long programs begin with an intense analysis of systemic racism and militarism as demonstrated in criminal justice and educational institutions. The group toured the Wang Luke Art Museum of Asian American history in Seattle; the Central District, where Seattle's Black Panthers led grassroots organizing; and the Duwamish River, which, despite severe pollution, remains a food source for the Duwamish people who live nearby.

Led by AFSC staff member Dustin Washington, the instructors coached participants in strategy creation and execution, using role playing and other exercises, which ask the young people to consider how to bring about social change. Following the Freedom School, many of the participants join the weekly Youth Undoing Institutional Racism (YUIR) program, which focuses on juvenile justice and school system issues. A delegation from YUIR met with Seattle's mayor on August 26 to discuss their concerns.

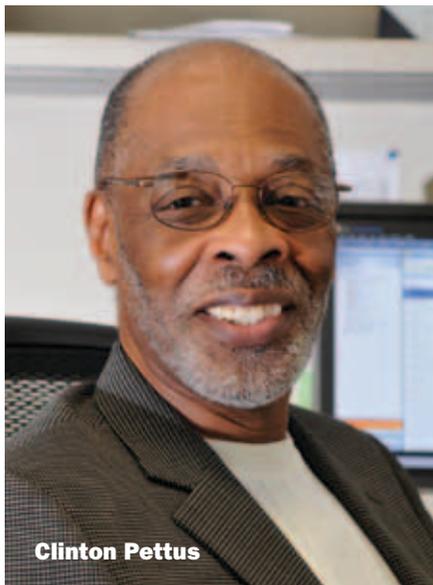
The students represented ethnicities ranging from Native American to Latino to Samoan, and varied in age from 15 to 20 years. They enjoyed the experience and a number of them intend to return to the next Freedom School.



Through AFSC's Great Lakes Region headquartered in Chicago, these college students will become Peace Fellows. In addition to their regular studies, they will plan and execute peace-oriented activities on campus and raise the awareness of their communities. The Peace Fellows program is in its second year.

Paths to Peace Take Many Routes

BY CLINTON PETTUS



Clinton Pettus

At first glance, program work at the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) may seem to be a conglomeration of programs and projects scattered across five continents. Hence, a reasonable query might be whether these programs and projects are discrete efforts where no two engage in the same kind of work rather than a homogeneous blend of connected elements.

Before looking at the query, it may be useful to note that each day citizens around the globe are confronted with pressing issues involving economic justice, immigration reform, restorative (criminal) justice, and violent response to conflict. Feeling a deep commitment to alleviating the pain and suffering that too many citizens around the globe experience on a daily basis, staff members and volunteers at AFSC seldom take time to ruminate about how programs and projects across the organization relate to one another unless there is an

explicit opportunity to collaborate or to draw on an experience or best practice.

Nevertheless, looking closely, we see that AFSC's programs all lead to non-violence and justice. For example, to end violence and bring about a more peaceful and just world, we work to empower individuals with tools for addressing conflict constructively in their lives and communities; we support marginalized communities in their journey to challenge structural and direct violence; and we work to confront and transform conditions and structures of violence generated by or between communities, political states, and increasingly, by non-state actors.

AFSC's peace and conflict resolution should be viewed in terms of the types of work that we perform, which can be characterized as work to change persons, work to change groups or communities, work to change policies and laws, and work to change social institutions. Bringing about each of these changes typically requires a different approach to peace and conflict resolution.

To bring about change in people, we might use mediation, negotiation or skill development such as with Help Increase Peace or Alternatives to Peace programs. To effect change with groups or communities, we might facilitate intra-group dialogue, engage in community organizing, or help build the capacity of the group or community to handle conflict constructively. To change policies or laws, we may advocate or offer alternative models such as restorative justice instead of retribution such as incarceration. To bring about

change in social institutions we might strive to strengthen inclusion processes, convene diverse parties or endeavor to bring about institutional reform.

In most of these pressing issues, we work at multiple levels in our commitment to the principles of nonviolence and justice.

When viewed in this way, we do not see AFSC programs and projects as discrete activities but as part of a broader effort to bring about one of the types of change described above—personal or individual, group or community, policy or legislative, and institutional. Further, the types of change should not be seen as disconnected, for change at the personal level, or at any level, may be antecedent to or coincident with any of the other types of change.

Do AFSC's programs and projects appear disparate and unrelated? To respond appropriately, we need to look less at the name of a program or project and more at the kind of change it is designed to achieve. When viewed this way, we see that AFSC's work cannot appropriately be described as a homogeneous blend of connected elements, but that there is greater coherence across the breadth of programs than you may have realized.

Clinton Pettus is the Deputy General Secretary of Programs, based in Philadelphia.

The Courage to Seek Peace

In the resources suggested below, you'll find stories of peace seekers as well as practical advice for joining the path toward peace and justice.

Binding the Wounds of War

by *Clifford Barnard*

Dear Dods: Letters From a Conscientious Objector in WWII

by *Art Bryant*

These two collections contain letters home from World War II conscientious objectors. Their personal accounts capture the struggle to serve both conscience and country.

Compassionate Listening and Other Writings

by *Gene Knudsen Hoffman*

Inspiring writings on pacifism and pathways to peace by Quaker mystic and activist Gene Knudsen Hoffman.

Enough Blood Shed: 101 Solutions To Violence, Terror and War

by *Mary-Wynne Ashford and Guy Dauncey*

Packed with effective nonviolent success stories, this book provides guidance, inspiration, and evidence that peace is not only possible, but getting there can be fun.

The Essential Gandhi: An Anthology of His Writings on His Life, Work and Ideas

edited by *Louis Fischer*

This collection offers a clear and thorough introduction to one of the greatest moral leaders the world has known.

Hope Indeed! Remarkable Stories of Peacemakers

by *N. Gerald Shenk*

The stories of "ordinary people" who used courage, inspiration, and love to transform bad situations.

Fierce Legion of Friends: A History of Human Rights Campaigns and Campaigners

by *Linda Rabben*

This comprehensive history starts with the 18th century opposition to slavery, then moves through the rise of the labor movement, lynchings, genocide, Sacco and Vanzetti, and much more.

Getting in the Way: Stories from Christian Peacemaker Teams

edited by *Tricia Gates Brown*

CPT members intervene with soldiers in the West Bank, "occupy" a military base in Chiapas, Mexico, and oppose brutality against native fishers in Canada, among other peace adventures.

The Intrepid Quaker: One Man's Quest For Peace—Memoirs, Speeches and Writings of Stephen G. Cary

edited by *Alison Anderson and Jack Coleman*

A lively memoir by a man who "lived his conscience" on the front lines—from Quaker relief work in Europe to civil rights marches and opposing the Vietnam War.

Martin Luther King: The Inconvenient Hero

by *Vincent Harding*

Harding writes passionately of King's later years, when his message and witness became more radical, challenging the status quo at every level.

Nonviolent Soldier of Islam: Badshah Khan, A Man to Match His Mountains

by *Eknath Easwaran*

Gandhi's partner in nonviolence, this pacifist led 100,000 devout Muslim Pashtuns in a nonviolent struggle against the British.



Stop the Next War Now: Effective Responses to Violence and Terrorism

edited by *Medea Benjamin and Jodie Evans*

Peace activists, experts, and visionaries reflect on the effectiveness of peace movement activities and offer hope and action steps.

The Ursula Franklin Reader: Pacifism as a Map

by *Ursula Franklin*

This comprehensive collection of the work of one of Canada's foremost pacifists makes a passionate case for how to build a society centered on peace.

Working for Peace: A Handbook of Practical Psychology and Other Tools

by *Rachel MacNair*

Forty active peace workers offer detailed and pragmatic advice on the psychology of successful social activism.

Most of these recommended books may be ordered from



Quakerbooks.org



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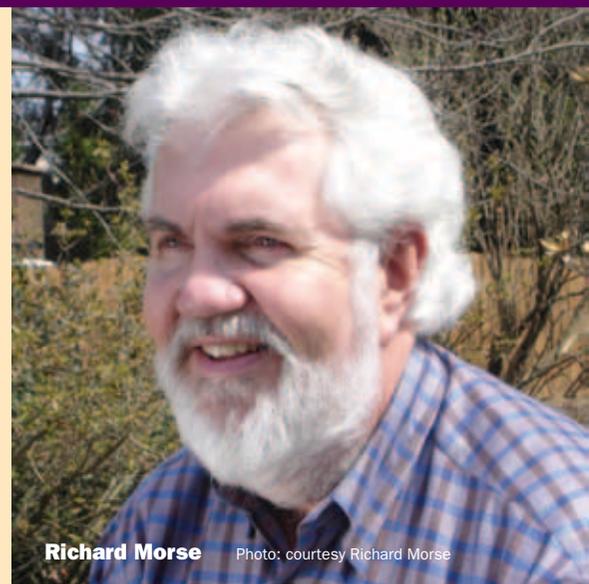
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Richard Morse: Committed Contributor

Richard Morse of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania says, "I am committed to making the world a better place than I found it and one way I choose to do that is to support AFSC." As an AFSC volunteer in Viet Nam in 1969, Richard notes that the experience showed him how modest funding aided war-injured civilians (there and in the U.S.) and helped to tell the story of the effects of the war. Richard has served on the AFSC Corporation and continues to believe "that AFSC is one of the most efficient and loving charities, evidenced by its Quaker principles." In addition to his generous annual financial support, Richard has named AFSC as a beneficiary in his will.

AFSC welcomes bequests of all sizes to further its worldwide programs for peace, justice and human dignity. You can join Richard Morse by naming AFSC to your will. Please contact the AFSC Gift Planning Office in Philadelphia toll-free at 888-588-2372, or visit our website at:

www.afsc.org/giftplanning



Richard Morse Photo: courtesy Richard Morse

"I am committed to making the world a better place than I found it and one way I choose to do that is to support AFSC." — RICHARD MORSE

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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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