

# Yamhill Valley Peacemakers

February 2007 Newsletter

www.yamhillvalleypeacemakers.org

## Join the LOCAL PEACE SURGE!

### Congressional Town Hall: Cost of War

The Yamhill Valley Peacemakers are encouraging everyone to attend a Cost of War Town Hall. It will be held on **Monday, February 19** (a federal holiday), at 6 PM in the Taylor Auditorium of Marsh Hall at Pacific University, 2043 University Way in Forest Grove. We have organized a car pool leaving from the First Baptist Church parking lot at First & Cows Streets in McMinnville at 4:45 PM.



The United States is at a critical deciding point in the future of the war in Iraq. Decision makers in Washington, DC are currently debating multiple proposals ranging from troop escalation to a timetable for immediate withdrawal. A supplemental appropriations vote for funding in Iraq is expected in Congress later this month, a vote that will test the impact of the recent 2006 elections on decisions relating to the war.

Constituents in Oregon's 1st Congressional District represented by David Wu are not waiting passively for decisions to be handed down. They are hosting their own town hall on February 19th in Forest Grove, Oregon to discuss these issues. The town hall will include delegations from the 5 counties that comprise the 1st Congressional District. Groups in addition to the Peacemakers committed to attend include West County Council for Human Dignity, Columbia Pacific Alliance for Social Justice, Adelante Mujeres and Columbia County Citizens for Human Dignity.

Congressman Wu has been asked repeatedly to host this town hall for his constituents, but has refused. In his absence the Rural Organizing Project has stepped forward and invited interested citizens from throughout the First Congressional District to attend. Testimony received will be sent to Representative Wu to urge him to act on our behalf to end funding for the war and spend that money here at home. To date Yamhill County taxpayers have spent more than \$78 million on the Iraq War alone.



Please join us at the Town Hall. For questions about the event or the carpooling, call Ellie Gunn or Mark Davis at 503-434-1282.

### What Is the People's "Way Forward" In Iraq?

How can we be most effective in ending war in Iraq? What do we need to know to act wisely and with influence in the current situation? What can history tell us about what is happening and how we should move forward? What is our responsibility in this situation? What is the answer?

Combining resources of life work, learning, local and international experience and activism, Yamhill Valley Peacemakers and George Fox University's Center for Peace and Justice are collaborating to set aside an evening of study and discussion dedicated to reaching answers about what can and should be done right now in Iraq.

Lon Fendall, Director of the GFU Center, and instructor of the "International Conflict and Peace" class this semester will moderate a panel of GFU individuals with international peacemaking experience to help us look at the situation at hand and explore effective actions that can be taken. Small group discussion and time for questions will follow.

**The opportunity to learn alongside GFU staff and students is one we eagerly recommend to all Yamhill Valley Peacemakers.** Thursday, March 8, 2007 - 7:00 p.m.

GFU's Villa Academic Center, Room #117

(old Newberg Hospital at 501 Villa Road, Newberg)

Carpool: Meet at the First Baptist Church parking lot at First and Cows, McMinnville, at 6:15 pm.

### Scribes for Peace

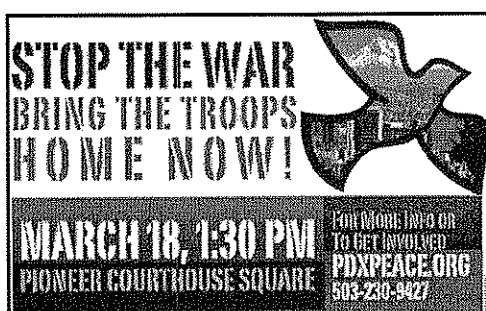


The Yamhill Valley Peacemakers want to support and encourage members to express their views and concerns on issues of peace and justice. Many members have declared an interest in writing better letters to the editor and in expressing themselves more clearly to those who have doubts about the efficacy of peacemaking efforts.

The Peacemakers will be organizing a group called the "Scribes for Peace" to practice writing and speaking skills and then support one another as we write regular letters to the editor about issues of concern.

If you have an issue you feel strongly about and want to learn some skills to help you express your ideas through writing and speaking, sign up for this informal, fun workshop. The first of the two 3 hour sessions will be on Saturday, March 17, 2007 at 9 A.M., at the McMinnville ESD building, Cozine Room, on Highway 18 at the traffic light across from Lowe's. The second session's date will be determined by the participants.

Peacemaker Ann Reid, whose varied experience includes 15 years as an English teacher, will lead the workshop. Please call Ann, 503-474-3698, to sign up for this free class and to start expressing yourself more clearly.



On the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the War in Iraq over 30 Oregon groups have united to sponsor a call to end the war now. All details of the event have not been finalized at this writing, but it should include various family-friendly activities like peace art, a rally and a short march starting at 1:30 PM.

The Peacemakers will be renting a bus once again to make it easier for local residents to attend. The bus will likely be leaving late morning from the McMinnville Public Library parking lot and returning late afternoon. If you are interested in getting a seat on the bus, please call Ellie at 503-434-1198 or send an email with the subject line of 'Bus' to [elliegunn@gmail.com](mailto:elliegunn@gmail.com). She can provide details once they are confirmed.

While it is important to continue our local vigils to end the war, it is also critical that we support these larger events in the metropolitan area where the major media outlets are located. Please bring family and friends to Pioneer Courthouse Square on March 18.

## New Banner, New Vigils:

We will be holding a vigil every Sunday from now on. We'll keep the old first Sunday hours of 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. then meet on the remaining Sundays from 4 until 5 p.m. (as well as the first Friday from 4:30-5:30 p.m.). We'll see you on the corner of 2nd and Adams Streets by the McMinnville Library. Bring your own sign or help us hold up the new 16 foot banner that reads, "NO MORE WAR!" This is the busiest intersection in town and we need to keep this issue in front of the public until they join us in pressuring the politicians to end this war. Contact Susan Ruggles at 503.843.5343 or [rugglesrd@aol.com](mailto:rugglesrd@aol.com) for more information.



New banner at 4 pm Sunday vigil, 2/11/07, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Adams



**Yard Signs:** The blue and white "War is Not the Answer" yard signs from the Friends Committee on National Legislation are 24"x18", made of sturdy weatherproof corrugated plastic and come with a removable metal ground stake. To get your signs, contact Lynn at [lrr@onlinemac.com](mailto:lrr@onlinemac.com) or pick them up from Ellie and Mark's front porch at 652 SE Washington, McMinnville. If you would like to contribute toward the next box of signs or other Peacemakers projects, please use the address below, and thanks.

### Climate Action Month: Changing Our Course

It is a widely accepted fact that Global Warming is happening. But what can we do about it? During the month of February, Northwest Earth Institute (NWEI) is sponsoring Climate Action Month: Changing Our Course. Tim LaSalle, Executive Director of the NWEI introduced a new course that addresses specific outcomes of global warming. Follow-up discussion groups will meet for 4 sessions and will include humorous yet inspirational suggestions to cut personal and local CO2. Anyone interested in joining a group, or for more information about this or other NWEI topics, should call Paul Studebaker at 503-472-1868. Join hundreds of other Americans this month and commit to address climate change in your community through small group discussion and action.

**"Be Peace" Book Group Forming,** Sunday, February 18, after the vigil. Peacemaker Robinlyn Wheeler will host a book group organizational meeting at her home outside Amity. She hopes people will be interested in reading a variety of genres that relate to personal experience with peace and social justice challenges. Hot drinks and light snacks will be provided. If you are curious about the group and/or need directions, call Robinlyn at 503 835-4709 or Dan Browne 503 474-7097.

**Meditation for Peace:** At the annual planning meeting in January several folks expressed interest in exploring personal growth/inner peace through meditation with a group of fellow peacemakers. Dan Browne (503-474-7097) and Linda Grove (503-472-9213) volunteered to help start a group, so call Linda or Dan if you would like to join. Times, dates, etc. will be arranged by those interested in meeting.

*Mysterious Movie:* Go to [dfalink.com](http://dfalink.com) and click "events" to attend this special private screening.

**Toad House Peace Circle,** Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m., indoors, with dessert. Rotating Circle Facilitators each week. See [tribes.tribe.net/toadlovers](http://tribes.tribe.net/toadlovers) for current photos and charity projects. See [toadhouse-peacegarden.org](http://toadhouse-peacegarden.org) for our philosophy and do. All must RSVP by using [worldtree@macnet.com](mailto:worldtree@macnet.com).

### Yamhill Valley Peacemakers Contribution Form - (please renew near your birthday)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Sign me/us up as a member (\$12 recommended, any amount accepted)

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is an additional donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Add me/us to the Peacemakers E-mail contact list

Please make checks out to **Yamhill Valley Peacemakers**, P.O. Box 1583, McMinnville, OR 97128.

Because of our political activism contributions are not tax deductible.

We are the people who run this country. We are the deciders. And every single day, every single one of us needs to step outside and take some action to help stop this war. We need people in the streets, banging pots and pans and demanding, "Stop it, now!" - Molly Iams

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