

# Yamhill Valley Peacemakers

May 2008 Newsletter

www.yamhillvalleypeacemakers.org

## Memorial Day

Once again Yamhill Valley Peacemakers will honor US troops who have died in the War in Iraq and Afghanistan on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th.

At least thirty volunteers are needed to help place 4,100 small American flags in the St. James Cemetery at the west corner of Highways 99W and 47.

Meet at the cemetery beginning at 7am. Please carpool if possible and be prepared for wet grass and cool weather. Coffee, fruit and pastries will be provided this year, but there are not restrooms at the cemetery. Names of some of the deceased soldiers will be read aloud and music will be played by Howie Harkema, weather permitting. A brief ceremony when the flags are in the ground (about 8:30) will be led by Steve Ross of McMinnville Co-operative Ministries.

Help will also be needed at 7pm to remove the flags. We have asked the local Monday night music group to sing in the evening, as they have in years past. If you have any questions call Danny Browne at 503 474-7097.



Peacemakers 2007- Now the number is 4000+.



## Summer Potluck

The only summer potluck planned this year is on Sunday, August 17 at the labyrinth on the corner of Westside and Burnett Roads in McMinnville. Walk the labyrinth at 5:30, potluck at 6. Bring your own plates and utensils. Bring a book to give away if you would like to.

The labyrinth is maintained by the folks at United Methodist Church. They welcome the public to walk the path of the labyrinth at any time. We have reserved the nearby picnic area for our vegetarian potluck. Please note the date on your calendar now as we do not plan another newsletter until fall.

## Vigils Continue

The Peacemakers continue to sponsor vigils against the Iraq War the first Sunday and first Friday of the month. The Friday vigil will be suspended for July and August and resume in September. The first Sunday vigils are 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM and the first Friday vigils are 5 to 6 PM. Both take place in McMinnville at 2<sup>nd</sup> & Adams in front of the new police station. Mark your calendar for June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 6<sup>th</sup> and join us with our signs and banners on the corner.

### Calendar

- ◇ **Memorial Day remembrance**, Monday, May 26. 7 am to plant the flags, and again at 7 pm to remove the flags
- ◇ **Stop the War Vigil**, Sunday June 1, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> & Adams
- ◇ **Stop the War Vigil**, Friday June 6, 5 to 6 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> & Adams
- ◇ **Stop the War Vigil**, Sunday July 6, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> & Adams
- ◇ **Stop the War Vigil**, Sunday August 3, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> & Adams
- ◇ **Potluck, August 17<sup>th</sup>** Corner of Westside Rd and Burnett, 6pm, Labyrinth walk at 5:30. McMinnville
- ◇ **Stop the War Vigil**, Friday September 5, 5 to 6 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> & Adams
- ◇ **Stop the War Vigil**, Sunday September 7, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

**Big Changes in Turkey Rama 2008:** The new look to Turkey Rama 2008 begins by a renaming. The McMinnville Downtown Association is calling their participation the *McMinnville Downtown Festival at Turkey Rama*. The McMinnville Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the turkey barbeque, carnival and misc. activities.

The activities on 3rd Street and side streets will be considerably different from past years. There will be a promenade entry from Baker Street with a continuation of booths down the center of the street and easy access to downtown merchants' side walk sales. There will be a green, sustainable area sponsored by Water and Light, a kids play area, an artists area, community outreach area, a food court, a fenced wine and beer garden and the main stage.

The Chamber of Commerce will have the turkey barbeque at Wortman Park with turkey sales at other locations as in previous years. They are arranging for the carnival attractions to be located away from 3rd Street.

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**To the Editor:**

It was easier for President Bush to order the illegal invasion of Iraq than it is for a veteran of that conflict to get assistance from the VA. The VA insists our veterans provide bureaucratic "proof" when they ask for help, yet the President, backed by a compliant Congress, started the war with the flimsiest of justifications, which later turned out to be false. The federal government asks for sacrifice from the members of the military, while at the same time handing out huge tax breaks to the wealthy and borrowing to finance the war, leaving future generations to pay for it.

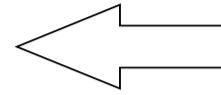
Instead of dealing with real problems at home, they have driven the economy into a tailspin by blowing hundreds of billions of dollars in the Iraq fiasco. Now they are borrowing more money they don't have to send us "economic stimulus" checks, which apparently the government wants us to spend on foreign consumer goods that will drive the nation deeper in debt.

If our so-called leaders cannot face our problems, it becomes incumbent on us to step up. If you are in debt, by all means use your stimulus check to reduce your debt, but if you are getting by, please consider using your check to support nonprofit groups doing things at home like supporting veterans, building housing, feeding the hungry, improving education, protecting the environment or promoting peaceful conflict resolution.

Some of our stimulus check will be going to support Iraq Veterans Against the War who will use the money to work to get us out of Iraq and to pressure the VA to get assistance for all veterans who need it. The rest of it will go to Yamhill Community Action Partnership (YCAP) to support their many programs that assist low-income persons in our County.

**War and Taxes**

Peacemakers Ellie Gunn and Mark Davis sent this letter to the News Register. It uses the issues raised in last month's showing of the film *Maxed Out* which described the corporate effort to push individuals into debt with the similar effect of bankrupting the nation with wasteful spending on war.



**Big Changes at Turkey Rama (contd.)**

This year the festival will be bigger and better for all. Please plan on supporting the merchants in the historic downtown who are working hard to make this indeed a special community wide event. Plan on eating a big turkey barbeque dinner at Wortman Park to support the Chamber of Commerce.

It takes our support to build our community to what we want and desire.

See you at the Festival!  
James Ruggles  
Steering Comm. for the NEW Turkey-Rama 2008



**Yamhill Valley Peacemakers Contribution Form**

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

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

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 renew near your birthday. Make checks out to Yamhill Valley Peacemakers, P.O. Box 1583, McMinnville, OR 97128. Because of our political activism contributions are not tax deductible.



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