



Winter-Spring 2012

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Director's Column Winter-Spring 2012 Newsletter

Dear Friends-It is with some sense of poignancy that I send greetings that this will be our last official newsletter from Pax Educare, Inc. and to inform our readership that we will be laying down our mission as a not for profit after ten years promoting and developing peace education. These have been years filled with the deepest learning and enriched relationships. I, as the founding director of Pax Educare, am deeply grateful to each and every one of you for the kinds of support you have given me and to the organization, as well as to the board, for the volunteer efforts with which many of you have engaged and for the support of the many students with whom we have worked over this past decade. I am so thankful to have had the chance to work with such talented and energetic students, board members, advisory Board members, and collaborative partners, including Cynthia Herms, our faithful webmaster, without all of whom we could not have done the work.

At the end of this year (2012), we will close our books as a non profit and our mission will be melded with that of the National Peace Academy (www.nationalpeaceacademy.us). After ten years I felt it was time to lay down much of the administrative work of running an organization. I have recently joined the board of the National Peace Academy after working closely with them for the past several years. The mission of NPA and that of Pax Educare are very closely aligned. Indeed, it is because I believe so in the power of the work of NPA and felt called to join the board that it felt like the right time to lay down the administrative tasks of directing Pax Educare. I have been grateful to so many of you for your generous financial support of Pax Educare and **urge you to consider donating instead to NPA. You may donate online through the NPA web site, or mail checks to NPA to the Finance Office at 2502 Rochester Road, Royal Oak, MI 48073.** *Photo-Participants in NPA's Peacebuilding Peacelearning Intensive*

I will continue to post updates on peacelearning activities and events on the current web site www.paxeducare.org at least until the end of the year. In addition, I will be sending out emails under the user name of Pax Educare into the foreseeable future, as I continue to teach, to write and consult, with updates of events of interest in peace education, activities of the National Peace Academy and other organizations. So you may watch for these postings. Please let me know if you do not wish to continue to receive emails and I can take you off of the mailing list. Please send me your email if I do not have it and you wish to continue receiving postings. In addition, I will be posting blog entries from time to time on the Pax Educare blog <http://paxeducare.wordpress.com/> and in the future this will include activities and events of interest. Recent blog postings are musings from a month long trip to Southeast Asia, where I observed that the effects of decades of war still linger deeply and the consumer culture is a sight to behold.



From our beginning in 2002, with the planning and implementation of two intergenerational Peace Days, through the many years of our collaborative youth work with the Help Increase the Peace Program (HIPP is now a program housed at Watkinson School in Hartford under the leadership of Middle School Head Diane Weinholtz), our resource library, book discussions, films and events, teaching, speaking, consulting opportunities, research and publications, I hope it is not too immodest to say that I believe that Pax Educare has filled a "niche" that was needed for its time. That we have been able to unite the sometimes disparate elements of education, research and activism with a focus on the local

and grass-roots, reaching also to a wider network of collaborations that helps to promote the processes and skills as well as the philosophy of peacelearning. We have embedded within the work the central concepts that educating for peace is so deeply connected with networking, engaging in deep conversation, interactive learning and shared experiences. Now it is evident that newer organizations, such as the National Peace Academy, are fulfilling this mission with energy, commitment and creativity. It is time to support their work. I hope I may continue to stay in touch with many of you.

Mary Lee Morrison
February 1, 2011

See this link for opportunities to engage with the National Peace Academy and their Certificate Program. http://www.nationalpeaceacademy.us/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=316&Itemid=86

Mary Lee Morrison will be facilitating a Certificate workshop at Adelphi University in April (21-22) with NPA Education Director Tony Jenkins. Our focus will be on visioning for a fossil-free future, using the work of Elise Boulding and other futurists as a springboard. You are cordially invited to join in. You do not have to be registered in the Certificate Program to attend. For more information, you can go to http://www.nationalpeaceacademy.us/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=316&Itemid=86. Sliding scale registration fees.

In addition, if you can manage a **winter trip to beautiful Colorado, this winter's National Peace Academy's Peacelearning Conference** will be held in Boulder February 17-19th, "bookended" by two additional workshops as part of NPA's Certificate Program. Click [here](#) for further information.

http://www.nationalpeaceacademy.us/index.php?option=com_frontpage&Itemid=1. Mary Lee will be attending and, with fellow board member Mike Abkin, facilitating a workshop entitled "Creating Local, Resilient and Adaptive Communities: Transitioning to a Post-Oil and Tightly Woven World".

Left: Happy Learners at the VT Peacebuilding Peacelearning Intensive July 2011



Your help in promoting and publicizing these activities is greatly appreciated.

Peacebuilding Peacelearning Intensive Held at Champlain College, Burlington VT, July 2011

The National Peace Academy's Peacebuilding Peacelearning Intensive (PPI) is a one-week learning program for people who wish to create significant, meaningful and sustainable change in their communities. PPI is intended to advance the development of the full spectrum of knowledge, skills and capacities of the peacebuilder – inner and outer, personal and professional. In doing so, it provides a holistic introduction to the theory and practice of peacebuilding and engages participants in cooperative learning experiences, including the preparation of a peacebuilding project proposal to take back to their communities.

The second National Peace Academy Peacebuilding Peacelearning Intensive was held July 17-23, 2011, at Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont. This year's PPI brought together people from 15 states and six other countries around a common intention of building peace in their communities. The weeklong Intensive featured:

Thought-provoking **plenaries** on concepts and practices of peace and right relationships in the five spheres of peace – personal, social, political, institutional, ecological were held. The plenary sessions consisted of conceptual, context-setting presentations followed by large- and small-group dialogues to share insights and deepen understandings of the themes presented. The dialogues used a variety of techniques, such as World Café, Appreciative Inquiry, and Reflective Practices.

Also included were skill-building **workshops** that extended the concepts to practical tools and experiences. Examples included: Care of the Self and Moral Capacity Building, Peace Education in the Classroom, Public Reason and Deliberation, Conflict Transformation for an Interdependent World, Managing Conflict when Negotiations Fail, and Climate Adaptation in Building Sustainable Communities.

Small, intimate **peacelearning and reflection groups** that met throughout the week to reflect on the learning and how it might influence participants' lives and work helped to develop the peacebuilding project proposals each would be taking home to their communities.

In addition, a panel of local individuals engaged in social change activities "on the ground" highlighted the importance of sustainable solutions to our present economic and ecological challenges.

A full report of the week long intensive can be found at http://www.nationalpeaceacademy.us/files/ppi_2011/ppi2011report2.pdf.

Below-Daily Reflection Group



Mary Lee Morrison was one of the several "edu-learners" (a term coined by peace educator Betty Reardon). Our task was to facilitate the learning of a group of about 8 of the participants, through daily meetings, enhancing our learning and connecting this to the development of peacebuilding projects each of us developed, based on our own locales in our communities. In addition Mary Lee led the workshop on Conflict Transformation, using the format of the Alternatives to Violence/Help Increase the Peace curricula.

National Peace Academy Participants Are Among the More Than 10,000 Circling the White House to Protest the Keystone XL Pipeline Project

On November 6 2011 thousands of committed activists for the integrity of the environment and the future of our planet joined hands and circled the White House to send a message to President Obama to uphold his 2008 campaign promises and asking him to not sign onto the proposed pipeline project which would mine crude bitumen in the Canadian Tar Sands of Alberta and bring it 1700 miles to the Gulf Coast for processing and export. This was a follow up to the over 1200 people arrested in August and September, in acts of civil disobedience orchestrated and supported by most of the major environmental organizations as well as national religious groups. As of this writing, it appears that these actions have had success-the President has refused Congress's expedition of the process of signature and has refused to sign onto this project. TransCanada will have to revisit the permit process, action on which will no doubt not occur until some time in the future. A victory for committed and well organized nonviolent activism. For more information you can visit <http://www.tarsandsaction.org/>.

Left to Right on November 6 at the White House: Martha Gallahue, Tiffany Jenkins, Liz Alexander, Mary Lee Morrison, Tony Jenkins. Bill Upholt took the picture.

Mary Lee Morrison and Bill Upholt and Martha Gallahue were among those arrested in August. The experience is blogged at <http://paxeducare.wordpress.com/> dated October 11, 2011



Thanks to Our Donors Since March 2011

Amalie and Robert Montstream, Leigh and Richard Jones-Bamman, Peggy Miller, Joy and Roger Floyd, Anne Eglinton, Allan Schiffer, Katharine Rovetti, Hartford Friends Meeting, Joanne and Rodney Dunnick, Mary Lee Morrison and Bill Upholt, Lorraine Cetto, Middletown Friends Meeting, CT, Miriam Epstein, Jean Pepitone. And a huge thanks to the Adaskin String Trio and Sally Pinkas for their years of gifts of music for the benefit of Pax Educare.

Other News: Thanks to the Graduate Institute www.learn.edu and their Master's Program in Conflict Transformation for giving Mary Lee Morrison the opportunity to teach one of their weekend courses in late January. The title of the course was *A Participatory Exploration of Peace Education and Gender*. Inquiries are welcome for the program, geared toward non traditional students with a flexible format and experiential and interactional learning/teaching. Thanks to Lisa Huber, Director of the Master's Program in Conflict Transformation and to the students, who will be assisting Mary Lee with revisions of the upcoming planned 3rd edition of *Peace Education* (Harris and Morrison, 2003).

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Founding Director-Mary Lee Morrison

Pax Educare began in 2003, out of an office in the Church of the Good Shepherd Parish House in Hartford. Subsequently we moved to the Parkville section of Hartford. We are currently in the North Frog Hollow section of Hartford, a vibrant and ethnically and socio-economically diverse neighborhood. Our mission is to nurture, mentor, support and promote those individuals, programs, organizations and communities that hold interest in educating for a more peaceful world. We promote the study, teaching and research of peace and peace education. A good deal of what we do is help connect like-minded learner/teachers of all ages to resources and to each other, believing that networking can be a powerful tool of peace pedagogy. We are small and grass-roots but reach a wide, international audience.

Board of Directors: Carol Shaw Austad-Central Connecticut State University, Ray Boucher-Alternative to Violence Project, Carolann Boucher-Hartford Friends Meeting, Diana Desnoyers-Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery and Board Chair, Diane Weinholtz-Head, Watkinson Middle School