

PAX EDUCARE
THE CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR PEACE EDUCATION

Vol. 1-2

Fall 2003

Notes from the Director

Recently I watched an excellent television special on PBS with film footage of New York and the events of September 11, 2001. It was a powerful experience, reconnecting with that day and with the emotions I had felt during the events and in the days and weeks following. I wondered why I continued to watch it, but some force kept me at it. I thought it important to revisit that day, with two years hind site. What have we learned from those events? What might we still learn? Though there was very little of overt politics in the film, one interviewed commentator spoke of the need for continued reflection. He seemed to be saying that to have responded in quick anger, as we did as a nation, to such cataclysmic events, robbed us of our very humanity, reducing us to a system of stimulus and response. That set me to thinking. What if, instead of launching a war on terrorism...

We had devoted the days and weeks following September 11 to a national day/ week/month of mourning? We had allowed ourselves a national "time out" to grieve, to pray together, to celebrate life and humanity, to reach out to our neighbors, local and global, to dialogue about peace? What if we had been encouraged to, and given incentives to, take sabbaticals, from our work, from school, from our everyday affairs in order to spend some time understanding for ourselves those awful events and to seek out others for comfort and solace?

What do we, as parents, caregivers and as teachers, ask of our children who are about to act out of anger? We ask them to cool down, to take some reflection time, before their next step. How different would our responses have been if we had done the same as a nation? What if, instead of immediately launching the war on terrorism, we had decided to use the events of September 11 for an international, intergenerational teach-in about violence, conflict and peace, and about the U.S. role in the world, including the importance of dialogue and listening on an international scale?

If we had done this....would we still have U.S. and international troops fighting warlords in Afghanistan? Would we have launched a war in Iraq, purposing to hunt down weapons of mass destruction based on "hunches"? I agree with columnist Bob Herbert that what this nation needs now is a time-out (he was referring to the ongoing conflict in Iraq). But what if we had had our time out two years ago? How different might things be now? Would we still be pursuing Osama bin Laden? Would we be suffering spiraling national deficits to finance wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere? Would we be continuing to lose American soldiers in the war on terrorism and innocent Iraqis as well?

What do we teach our children? Of the importance of thinking things through. Of not acting in haste, of stopping before reacting. I ponder why it has been so difficult for us as a nation to do the same?

In this issue, you will hear from the two student interns we are delighted to have at Pax Educare. Mark your calendars for the November 2 concert with the Adaskin String Trio. Several events are listed as well as peace links. We welcome visitors at Pax Educare. Stop by for tea. And don't forget Peace Day October 13.

Mary Lee Morrison-founder and director

PAX EDUCARE
The Connecticut Center for Peace Education
155 Wyllys Street
Caldwell Colt Memorial Parish House
Hartford, CT 06106
860-930-3182
www.paxeducare.org



Colt Memorial Parish House-Home of Pax Educare

Pax Educare Events

October 13-Intergenerational Peace Day at the Learning Corridor in Hartford. For youth and adults. 9 AM-3:30 PM. Drumming with Jon Boiano and Ajali, a telecast with students of the Metropolitan Learning Center of their dialogue with Iraqi students, interactive theater presentation with Hartbeat, poetry, over 20 workshops, art and dialoguing for peace. Lunch included. \$10 students, \$25 adults. For information call Pax Educare. See the web site for pictures of last year's event. And please arrive early to register!

November 2-Pax Educare Open House and benefit concert by the Adaskin String Trio in the Parish House ballroom. Come browse the library and Center and experience the wonderful sounds of the string trio. Open house from 1-3 PM. Concert begins at 3. Tickets-\$10.

Youth Mini-Grants-Pax Educare is the coordinator of the Hartford Youth Violence Prevention Initiative, comprised, in addition to the Center, of Burr School, Watkinson School, Trust House and the Saint Joseph College Department of Social Work. We have funds for several mini- grants for youth developed projects, for up to \$500. Contact Pax Educare if you are interested or want details. Deadline for applications is November 14. Applications must come from a youth group, with an adult advisor.

Connecticut Coalition for Peace and Justice Discussion Series-meets at Pax Educare the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30. October 21 topic will be the International Criminal Court. November's most likely will be on the relationship between international NGOs, peacekeeping, militarism and humanitarian intervention.

Peace Film Festival-plans are in the works for a winter series in the ballroom of the Parish House. Friday evenings January-March 2004. Stay tuned.

Do you have a peace education event you would like publicized? Contact Mary Lee and news can go out in the next newsletter or over the email list. Space is available in the beautiful Parish ballroom for large and small peace gatherings.

Peace Connections

Learning to Repair the World-2nd year of a program of the Charter Oak Cultural Center bringing together Jewish, Muslim and Christian students (5th through 7th grades) to learn to grow together and find their voice and power as agents for social change. Meets one Sunday a month from 2:30-5:30 beginning November 9. Cost is \$100. Scholarships available. For more information, contact Rabbi Donna Berman at 249-1207.

Women and Peace Conference-Southern CT State University's women's studies department is putting on this conference Friday October 17 and Saturday October 18th. Workshops, exhibits and plenary sessions. Pax Educare will be exhibiting and Mary Lee will do a workshop on the life of veteran peacemaker Elise Boulding. For more information, contact the women's studies department www.southernct.edu/departments/womensstudies or email at womenstudies@southernct.edu

Culture of Peace News Network-David Adams, retired from UNESCO and Pax Educare board member, has developed this interactive news network as a contribution toward the UN Decade for a Culture of Peace. Visit the site at <http://www.cpnn-usa.org>. It includes many articles and places for interactive discussion.

The Connecticut Collaborative for Education Against Gun Violence is committed to reducing gun violence throughout Connecticut through research and education. They have just completed an interesting survey on issues around licensure of firearms in CT. www.cceagv.org.

Symposium on the Earth Charter and our Common Future-October 11, Saint Joseph College, 9 AM-noon. Building partnerships among academia, business, faith gatherings, NGOs, government and youth. \$5 until Oct 9, \$10 at door. Students free. For information, call 860-231-5501 or email at ocf@sjc.edu. www.ourcommonfuture.org

Center for Serenity, Inc. Affiliation. Pax Educare is now an affiliated program of the Center for Serenity, Inc. www.centerforserenity.org, a 501 © 3 organization. Center for Serenity is devoted to counseling and education with a spiritual base. Thanks to Director Lynn Johnson for her generous offer for this arrangement, which will allow donations to Pax Educare to be tax deductible. Lynn and Mary Lee each sit on each other's respective Advisory Boards and share in some programming and sponsoring of activities. Each organization keeps its separate mission statement. **Donations to Pax Educare may be made out to Center for Serenity, Inc. and earmarked Pax Educare. Send to Pax Educare, 155 Wyllys Street, Hartford, CT. Thank you.**

Hartford Youth Violence Prevention News. The Coalition meets monthly to move forward with our mission of working together to promote initiatives in prevention and to foster development of youth leadership in the greater Hartford area. We are grateful for the technical support of the Governor's Prevention Partnership and to Leigh Jones-Bamman, Program Manager for the GPP. Mary Lee and Christina Morales, student intern, facilitated a workshop at Trust House with families on August 28, with a discussion under of queries including "what do we mean by peace?" and "what do I remember about a time in my life that was peaceful?" Over 30 youth and caregivers participated, culminating in the making of peace murals for the Trust House walls and entryway, with help from a local artist. Plans are to move forward with HIPP (Help Increase the Peace), youth violence transformation program.

Christina Morales and an eager Trust House participant

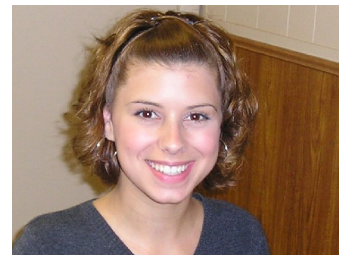


Pax Educare welcomes intern Christina Morales-Smith. Christina is a senior majoring in social work and is with us 16 hours a week, dividing her time between the Burr Student Support Center, the Hartford Youth Violence Prevention Initiative and activities with Pax Educare. Christina was recently married on September 13. Congratulations to Christina. **Christina writes**

I would like to thank so many who have been extremely welcoming for my arrival as an intern. I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. For the fall and spring semesters I will be working at the Alfred E. Burr School in Hartford, helping to develop the Student Support Center, as well as working with Pax Educare and the Hartford Youth Violence Prevention Initiative on a new grant received from The Governor's Prevention Partnership. I have been a resident of Hartford for 20 years and currently live in Rocky Hill with my new husband, Torronce and daughter, Cheyenne-Mone (three years old). It enlightens me to be able to give back to a community that is in great need but also to a community that has molded me into the woman I am today. I also work full-time for The Governor's Prevention Partnership in the communications department, helping to promote public awareness ads regarding substance abuse. Today, I may live in the suburbs but in my heart I will always be a city girl. Here's to an exciting and challenging year working with Pax Educare, the Hartford Youth Violence Prevention Initiative and Alfred E. Burr School.

Pax Educare welcomes intern Stacy Potter. Stacy writes

My name is Stacy Potter and I am a junior at Saint Joseph College majoring in Social Work. I am looking forward to my placement at Pax Educare because it will give me an opportunity to become more familiar with the city of Hartford. I am eager to learn more about the residents and the neighborhoods. Another aspect of my placement that I am looking forward to is working the Student Support Center at Burr Elementary School. I see my time spent with Pax Educare as an opportunity for me to become a more well-rounded and diverse individual.



Stacy's internship is part of a course at Saint Joseph on justice issues in Hartford, taught by Dr. Alex Mikulich, a Pax Educare advisory board member.

Pax Educare welcomes Miriam Bergamini as our newest Advisory Board member. Miriam is a Hartford resident and is on the board of the United Nations Association-USA, Greater Hartford Chapter. She is active with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and is a veteran peacemaker. Welcome Miriam!

Pax Educare Advisory Board

David Adams Elise Boulding
Miriam Bergamini Carolann Boucher
Marjorie Henry Alex Mikulich
Lynn Johnson Jeanne Morascini
 Helen Raisz

Staff

Founder and Director
Mary Lee Morrison LCSW, PhD

Assistant and Webmaster
Gretchen Upholt

Student Interns
Christina Morales and Stacy Potter

Thanks.....Thanks.....Thanks
Gretchen Upholt, Bill Upholt,
Advisory Board, contributors to Peace Day, Rich
Sivel, Martha Vinick, Diane Weinholtz, Eleta
Jones and David Thompson, Virginia Swain and
Joseph Baratta, Brooke Nelson, Kelly Kolodny,
Barbara and Bill Taylor, Peggy Miller, David
Holdt, Trust House, Morley School Day Care,
Glastonbury Youth Services Action, Roz Spier,
Ruth Goldbaum, McFarland Publishers, Leigh
Jones-Bamman, Carolann Boucher

Thanks to Tom Gerety, recently retired from Amherst College, for a wonderful collection of books on Gandhi, several biographies and writings on his philosophy and work. Thanks also to Leigh Jones-Bamman of the Governor's Prevention Partnership, for the donation of a CD on School Safety and Violence Prevention Services

Random Notes

Need a particular workshop for your school or organization? Contact us for help in planning an educational event. We can help steer you to the right resources, facilitators and curricula.

Needed-a good, sturdy used coffee table for Pax Educare. We are hosting more groups and need space for snacks and drinks.

Quaker Meeting for Worship-a meeting for worship after the manner of Friends is held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Pax Educare at 5:30 PM followed by soup supper. All are welcome.

Pax Educare
The CT Center for Peace Education
Caldwell Colt Memorial Parish House
155 Wyllys Street
Hartford, CT 06106