



PAX EDUCARE
THE CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR PEACE EDUCATION

Vol. 2-1

Notes from the Director

Spring 2004

I was moved by the title and the content of a recent Op-Ed piece in the Hartford Courant entitled "Peace Through Education Not Fences". The author was referring to the erection in Israel-Palestine of the wall separating the two cultures, in the hopes that this will bring about a peaceful resolution of the ongoing conflict. Robert Frost got it right when he recognized that we love those old and romantic New England stone walls, but "something there is that doesn't" love them. Why won't a wall work? Because it denies the essence of each side's humanity and reinforces the idea that there is only one way to solve a problem-to avoid and deny that communication is possible between warring factions, that reconciliation is an impossible goal.

Parents and teachers will recognize in this syndrome of separation, on a more mundane level, the oft-used solution of pulling apart squabbling children in the hopes that they will cool down and come to some resolution of their conflicts, in effect erecting a metaphoric wall. However we know that resolution of their fight won't be possible unless 1) the children see some longer-term benefit for themselves in working toward a solution (justice must be served) and 2) the children also possess the skills to do it. A wall of separation won't work unless it is a step toward a longer term resolution, one that eventually brings the parties together again in reconciliation and relationship, one that empowers the parties in conflict to themselves enter into the final solution, through listening and dialogue. Children and adults must be educated toward learning these skills and recognizing when justice is served.

Why is peace education so important? Because it relies on philosophical principles and processes to teach children and adults that there is a "third way", not to build walls and avoid, not to fight, but the way of caring, compassion and concern, the way of respect, resolution and relationship building. How many of us have metaphorically been given a hammer and found little else out there but nails? There are great forces at work for peace. All we have to do is look for them.

Here at Pax Educare we continue our work bridging peace education from the local to the global. In this issue you will learn about some of the activities in which we have been involved: locally through the Hartford Youth Violence Prevention Initiative, and speaking engagements and co-sponsoring several events concerned with international issues of peace and justice. You will read of upcoming events in which Pax Educare and others are involved.

We are looking for opportunities to engage in dialogue around the question-"how do we educate toward a culture of peace?" If your community group, religious organization or school is interested, please contact us.

Mary Lee Morrison-founder and director

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Colt Memorial Parish House-Home of Pax Educare

Pax Educare Events

Recent Events:

- The second annual intergenerational Peace Day was held at the Learning Corridor with 100 in attendance. Pax Educare was coordinator for the event. Thanks to all who participated and to the donors of food and funds. It was a great day.
- Mary Lee Morrison presented at the Southern CT State University Women's Studies Conference in October-her workshop presented the life and work of Elise Boulding, subject of her upcoming biography to be published by McFarland Press in 2005. Elise Boulding has been called the "matriarch" of the 20th century peace research movement.
- Pax Educare was featured in an interview on West Hartford Cable, Channel 5, in October, on the program "Songs of the Soul" with Ann Carrol Decker.
- We held a successful Open House and fundraiser November 2 with the Adaskin String Trio, who donated their wonderful talent
- We were co-sponsors in November of the observance of the memory of Kristallnacht, with the Charter Oak Cultural Center and other groups
- We co-sponsored a forum at Saint Joseph College in November on the role of the United States in international affairs
- In December we were co-sponsors of the CT portion of the national tour of two Iraqi women scholars
- In January we spoke at the Old Lyme Congregational Church at their adult forum on Building a Culture of Peace
- In February we were co-sponsors of the West Hartford Town Hall Forum on Iraq
- Since December, as coordinator of the Hartford Youth Violence Prevention Initiative, we have given out 3 youth mini grants to Hartford based youth groups, with funding from the Governor's Prevention Partnership-see accompanying article
- We have joined the Advisory Board of the CT Safe Schools and Communities Coalition and its sub-committee on Girls and Violence
- We have become members of the CT Coalition for the Advancement of Prevention
- Recently we joined the Academic Council of the United Nations System (www.acuns.wlu.ca)
- We have become an endorsing organization of the Hague Appeal for Peace and their campaign in peace education (www.haguepeace.org)
- We recently had a visit from Chris Low, who helped to found the Women Artists of Matenwa project in Haiti. Pax Educare has been helping to promote the lovely scarves and clothing the women produce as part of their small community cooperative. A new contingent of items is now in stock at the Center. They will be on display at the Magical Strings concert.

Upcoming Events:

- Mary Lee Morrison will present a workshop at the March youth conference for peer mediators, to be held at Quinnipiac University, "Youth Empowered for Social Change: Mediators as Global Peacemakers"
- Dr. Morrison will guest lecture in March for a class in Social and Community Issues in Education at the Neag School of Education, University of Connecticut. She will speak on "The Peaceable Classroom: From Principles and Pedagogy to Participant-Action".
- Save the date of **April 4** for the return engagement of the wonderful sounds of **Magical Strings** at 3 PM in the ballroom of the Parish House www.magicalstrings.com
- Dr. Morrison will teach a peace studies course at Saint Joseph College, 2nd term of Summer School, entitled "War, Peace and Social Work". Class will run between June 16 and July 30. For more information, contact the college at www.sjc.edu

Connecticut Coalition for Peace and Justice Discussion Series-meets at Pax Educare the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:30. December and January were devoted to the issues around humanitarianism and war. February's topic will be Haiti. All are welcome. Helen Raisz, member of the Pax Educare Advisory Board is coordinator for the series.



A recent meeting of the Monthly Discussion Group at Pax Educare sponsored by the CT Coalition for Peace and Justice

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, the Village for Families and Children and the Saint Joseph College Department of Social Work. We recently completed a Strategic Plan and continue to meet monthly. We welcome new members of the coalition. We have awarded \$500 to the following groups, thanks to a grant from the Governor's Prevention Partnership. Each one is youth developed and youth led:

- Batchelder School Conversation Café and Adventure Club, for leadership development through a Ropes course, implementing skills with other classes and the community
- Burr School Student Leadership Team, for training in conflict resolution through the Wheeler Clinic. The trained 7th and 8th graders in turn will then teach 5th graders
- Empowered Youth for Social Change, a Hartford based high school group, for planning and implementation of a forum on human rights

Future goals of the coalition include additional fundraising, expansion of our membership and joint programming around violence prevention, including HIPP (Help Increase the Peace-www.afsc.org/hipp.htm). A HIPP Advanced workshop is scheduled for March 4 and 5.

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.

We have a new email address: paxeducare@comcast.net. Phone number and web address remain the same.

Gretchen Upholt receives invitation to speak at an undergraduate student conference

Pax Educare assistant and web-master Gretchen Upholt recently had a paper accepted for the National Conference on Undergraduate Research to be held in April at Indiana-Purdue University in Indianapolis. The title of her paper is *Educating for Peace: A Comparison of Conflict Resolution Programs in Urban and Suburban Schools in the United States*. Gretchen is a senior at American University, majoring in arts and cultural management. Congratulations Gretchen!

Pax Educare says good-bye to two student interns

Stacy Potter was with us for several weeks this fall, spending most of her time tutoring at our partner institution, Burr School. Thanks to Stacy for her help. Reluctantly, Christina Morales has had to leave us after a full fall working in the Student Support Center at Burr and helping with other Pax Educare activities. Christina is due to give birth to her second child in May and, with her other work and school, found it challenging to balance so much. We will miss her and are glad we will see her occasionally, as she will be continuing work with the Youth Violence Prevention Coalition through her placement at the Governor's Prevention Partnership.

Need for Volunteers/Interns

Know anyone who would like to give a little time to Pax Educare? Needed: help with data entry, cataloguing of books, research for funding opportunities, help with mailings and researching opportunities for speaking. Please contact us if you or anyone you know is interested. Will train!

Peace Connections

Plowshares Institute, with the Hartford Seminary and Leadership Greater Hartford is offering a travel seminar to Cuba **March 9-18**. The course is entitled "A Dialogue Between the U.S. and Cuba: Economics, Human Rights, Ecology and Religion. For more information contact Plowshares at plowshares@hartsem.org (860-651-4304).

Plowshares, the Hartford Seminary and other cultural and religious groups, including Leadership Greater Hartford, are also sponsoring a **travel seminar to China May 24-June 7**. Topics are human rights, economics and the role of the church in China. For more information contact Plowshares.

The U.S. Institute of Peace has collection of classroom simulations on a number of world conflicts. These are geared toward upper level high school students and guide them through a role-play as stakeholders in the conflicts, including Columbia, Northern Ireland, Sri Lanka and Africa. <http://www.usip.org/class/simulations/>

Mix-It-Up Grants from the Southern Poverty Law Center have funded more than 85 student projects crossing boundaries in schools and communities for youth projects in human rights and tolerance. For more information call 1-888-414-7752 or email at plannedgiving@splcenter.org. Thanks to the Curriculum of Hope Newsletter (Winter 04) for this information.

The **Boston Research Center for the 21st Century** provides a free on-line directory of curriculum resources for global citizenship education. There are over 30 innovative curricula, with emphasis on secondary level. Math, science, literature, social studies, fine arts, conflict resolution, foreign language, community building and more are included. www.brc21.org . Thanks to the Wilmington College Peace Resource Center news (Fall 03) for this information

World Affairs Council of Greater Hartford presents **Great Decisions 2004**. "Foreign Policy Issues Facing the Nation". A series of 8 briefings on the US and the world. Meets Thursdays from noon to 1 PM at the West Hartford library, Webster Hall. Cost is \$30 for entire session or \$3 a session. Bring a bag lunch. Topics covered include the media and foreign policy, reform in the Middle East, Weapons of Mass Destruction, US and Europe, Islam, Latin America, The Philippines, Public Diplomacy. For specific topics/dates and for more information contact the WAC: info@wpr.daffaors-htfd.org. www.worldaffairs-htfd.org 860-594-4100.

The Institute for Global Leadership, a Worcester-based organization devoted to leadership training, presents a course series entitled "The Practice of Reconciliation Leadership", a certificate-based program of several modules. Course will run from March until July and includes a module at the United Nations in New York City. The aim of the series is to tap into participants' vocational calling, build skills and promote a philosophy of peace and service to others. For more information, contact Virginia Swain, Director, 508-753-4172. www.global-leader.org.

Conflict Transformation Across Cultures Summer Institute-May 31-June 18, the School for International Training (SIT), World Learning Institute, Brattleboro, VT. Participants will come from 25 countries to explore the theory and practice of nonviolent conflict transformation, sharing experiences of healing and reconciliation. Designed to meet the needs of working professionals and includes distance learning. For information, call 802-258-3598 www.sit.edu/contact/

Alertnet-a web-based site devoted to the latest news in global humanitarianism. Frequent updates are given from sites around the world. www.alertnet.org

Certificate Mediation Training, a 40 hour comprehensive introduction to mediation and conflict management. Lawyers and non-lawyers urged to participate. Held at the Quinnipiac University School of Law and co-sponsored by the Quinnipiac Center on Dispute Resolution and the U Conn College of Continuing Studies. Two weekends (must attend both), March 18-20 and April 1-3. To register, call U Conn College of Continuing Studies, 877-892-6264. For more information call 203-582-3246. Thanks to Charlie Pillsbury at Community Mediation for this information. <http://cityofnewhaven.com/police/html/partnerships/communitymediation.htm>

A Season for Nonviolence-January 30-April 4. Established in 1968 by the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, this is a 64 day national educational, media and grassroots campaign dedicated to demonstrating that nonviolence is a powerful way to transform and empower ourselves and our communities. Different groups have been inspired to do a variety of activities. The event begins on January 30, the date of the assassination of Gandhi and ends on April 4, the anniversary of the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. <http://www.agnt.org/snv64ways.htm>. Here are a few samples of activities and musings, by days (<http://www.jhu.edu/snv/2003/64days.html>) :

- March 9-*Dialogue*. A healthy society is one in which those who disagree can do so with honor and respect for other people's opinions. "Speak your truth quietly and clearly: and listen to others"-Desiderata. Today, speak up but do not enter into the spirit of argument.

- March 10-*Unity*. Today, look for 3 ways to see beyond outer differences in opinions, appearances or goals. Find the meeting point of underlying unity that exists in diversity.
- March 11-*Openness*- "He who builds himself a fence, fences out more than he fences in." (Turkish proverb). Today, be open to understanding and to ideas and people that you have previously opposed.

News and Updates from the Peace Education Center at Teachers College, Columbia University-upcoming workshops

"The Pedagogy of Peace Education: Putting Theory Into Practice" March 26-27 and April 2-3.

"Peace Education Perspectives on Security: Focus on Gender" April 23-24, 30 and May 1. www.tc.edu/PeaceEd. Or email at peace-ed@tc.edu

The PEC also has a Tokyo campus and hosts public seminars and trainings.

The International Institute on Peace Education 2004 will be held in Istanbul, Turkey August 1-7 hosted by Sabanci University in association with the PEC. Topic will be Human Security: Building a Culture of Peace. For inquiries: Jenkins@tc.columbia.edu

News from the Center for Serenity-7th Annual Serenity Award will be given to Judi and Lou Friedman, environmental and peace activists. Concert by Sirius Coyote. Saturday, March 27th 3 to 5:30 PM. First Baptist Church of West Hartford 90 North Main St. West Hartford, CT People of all ages are invited to this celebration of two wonderful people! Come hear Sirius Coyote make magical, musical sounds of the Americas. See Jelly Jam, The People Preserver, a puppet that teaches us how to care for our environment. Enjoy flowers from Lexington Gardens, Garden and Flower Shop, environmental displays, refreshments, bio-diesel cars and much, much more. The event will benefit People's Action for Clean Energy (PACE) and Center for Serenity, Inc. \$10 donation requested. www.centerforserenity.org. Pax Educare is an affiliate of Center for Serenity.

Upcoming Trainings from the Governor's Prevention Partnership of Connecticut

- Mentoring: March 30 and 31st and May 6
- Peer Mediation Conference (for youth): March 12
- Underage Drinking: June and July

Building a Comprehensive Approach and MADD Power Camp 2004

For more information contact the GPP at 523-8042; www.preventionworksct.org

The Peace Education Special Interest Group of the American Educational Research Association

newsletter can be accessed at: http://www.colostate.edu/Depts/r-dcenter/Peace_Ed_Home_Page.htm. It is chock full of many different resources, including on-line sites and books.

PeaceEd.org is the web-based project of the National Campaign on Peace Education. You can learn about the history of this project, the need for peace education, the available resources, curricula and materials, the locations where peace education is active and a timetable for related events nationwide. You can also sign up for the newsletter online:

<http://www.peaced.org/newsletter.htm>

New Additions to the Library-come in and browse! We also have many recent newsletters from various groups

Racism Explained to My Daughter by Tahar Ben Jelloun

Lifting the White Veil: An Exploration of White American Culture in a Multiracial Context by Jeff Hitchcock

How Race is Lived in America by Correspondents of the *New York Times*

One World: The Ethics of Globalization by Peter Singer. Gift of Miriam Bergamini

Jobs, Security and Arms In Connecticut: A Study of the Impact of Military Spending on the State (1980) by Marta Daniels. Gift of Sr. Mary Louise Rouleau

A Listing of the Permanent Missions to the UN, 2003. Gift of Miriam Bergamini.

Pax Educare Advisory Board

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*Magical Strings
will perform
April 4*

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Donations to Pax Educare are gratefully accepted.

Donations may be sent to Pax Educare: 155 Wyllys Street, Hartford, CT 06106. We are an affiliate of the Center for Serenity, Inc. a 501 c 3 organization. If you would like your donation to be tax deductible, checks may be made out to Center for Serenity, Inc. Please earmark for Pax Educare and send it to our address as listed. Suggested donations:

\$20 student and low income \$35 individual \$50 family
\$80 Friend of Pax Educare \$125 Patron
\$250 benefactor Many thanks.

Monthly Quaker Meeting for Worship at Pax Educare-2nd Tuesday of the Month at 5:30. All are welcome. Join us for soup afterwards

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