

PAX EDUCARE
THE CONNECTICUT CENTER FOR PEACE EDUCATION

Vol. 2-2

Notes from the Director

Fall 2004

What is peace education? The Peace Education Working Group at UNICEF defines it as the promotion of attitudes, knowledge, skills and values needed to bring about behavior changes that enable people to prevent conflict and violence, to resolve conflicts nonviolently and to create the conditions for peace, both locally and globally. Peace education involves the development of the critical and reflective capacities to transform violence in its many forms.

I would like to share a compelling example of the transforming power of education that I read about recently that occurred in the Darfur region of the Sudan. Sudan has been much in the news these days.. The *Janjaweed*, Arab militiamen, joined in force by government soldiers, are fighting the black African farmers in the region, fellow Muslims, over land, and have driven at least one million from their homes since 2003. The UN regards this as one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. As in most crises of this nature, each side views the other as the chief instigator of the conflict. The black farmers began a rebel movement last year, in response to their perception that the government in Khartoum had been unresponsive to many of their concerns.

Older women in the Sudan, those upon whom the honored title of *hakamah* has been bestowed, are regarded as wise village elders who have special gifts of insight. These traditional Sudanese singers chant and recite poetry of love, celebration, and mourning and, until very recently, belted out war songs in tribute to the Arab militiamen of their communities. The tradition of the *hakamah* is an honored one.

The Peace Studies Center at the University of Nyala invited several of the *hakamah* to a special workshop for influential community leaders. The women learned about the nature of conflict, including lectures on the history of this war, and were asked to consider using their wise ways and considerable influence for peace, rather than to stir up emotions for war. After several moving sessions, involving some initial denial and some tearful admissions, eventually all of the *hakamah* agreed that they could do much more good if they began to spread messages of nonviolence and love in their songs and, indirectly, could shame the perpetrators of violence. Because *hakamah* are more than poets and singers, but are also community judges, this transformative role carried with it enormous import. One singer, after the workshop, returned to her village, chanting the lyrics "may the children grow with no fighting in their lives."

May this dream become reality-that children will grow up with visions of peace and the skills and knowledge needed to build a better world. Here at Pax Educare we have a new address-56 Arbor Street in Hartford. We welcome visitors. Take a peek inside this newsletter for upcoming events, new books and literature, news of the past few months and links to good resources. We invite your thoughts on anything included in the contents and hope it will, in large or small ways, inspire you to build peace, beginning "where you are".

If you would like to receive this newsletter in email form only, to save trees, please let us know and include your email, in case we don't have it.

Mary Lee Morrison

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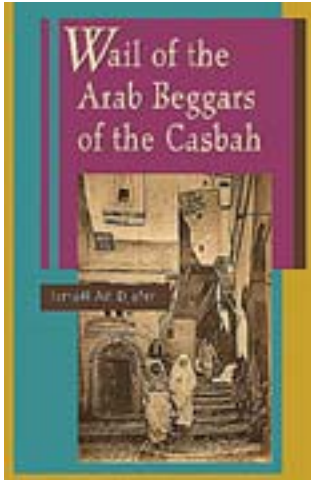


The Mission of Pax Educare is to link scholars, educators and activists to resources, opportunities, curricula and training in peace and conflict studies, nonviolence, human rights, ecology and the environment and to help answer the question-how do we educate for a more peaceful tomorrow?

Recent Additions to our Library

If you go on our web site you will see that our library and resource holdings are now available up on our “resource” link. We encourage browsing, borrowing and are open for those coming in to do research. Thanks to our webmaster Gretchen Upholt for assisting us in getting this up.

Looking for some good reading? A review by Boyce Upholt



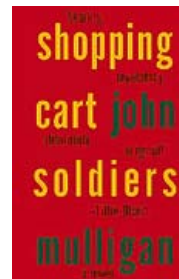
Newly arrived at the Pax Educare library, Curbstone Press's new edition of the underground classic *The Wail of the Arab Beggars of the Casbah* by Ismaël Aït Djafer is both a hauntingly beautiful elegy and a searing political indictment. Written by a young Algerian student during the French occupation of Algeria, this long poem concerns itself with the horrors of colonialism. Despite the ruinous poverty of the Algerians, Djafer observes a startling callousness in the privileged colonialists, and levels a condemnation that still resonates in today's world of divided wealth. Djafer weaves his scorn into a true narrative, the tale of a starving, tubercular beggar who murdered his own daughter by throwing her beneath the wheels of a truck—an image, that, even when one knows its coming, succeeds in shocking the reader into an understanding of the beggars' poverty. Djafer was acquitted in court on the grounds of insanity, a ruling which, more than exonerating the beggar, cleared the government of any responsibility: the Arab beggar's instability washed his actions of any motive. Djafer holds the young Yasmina as a symbol of the Algerians' plight, and in his mournful poem he speaks out for all those who suffer—yet he still manages to honor her as an individual.

The Wail of the Arab Beggar is masterfully translated by Jack Hirschman, one of the most important and most talented political poets in America. Curbstone presents here a bilingual edition, so readers familiar with the French can track both Djafer's original and Hirschman's translation side by side. The poem, which circulated as a pamphlet and was published by Jean Paul Sartre in the 1950s, is as important today as ever, and pack as much of a punch.

Also available for check out at Pax Educare

Shopping Cart Soldiers by John Mulligan, a fictional tale of a Vietnam veteran's spiritual journey back to life.

Come down and check read!



to the library out a book to

New Journals

Journal of Peace Education

Global Governance—a Review of Multilateralism and International Organizations

Other New Books

Plan B: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble by Lester Brown

Messages from Ground Zero: Children Respond to September 11, 2001, a gift from Elise Boulding

A series of drawings and narratives from the children of New York

A “new old book” —*Out of Control* by Leslie Cockburn. The story of the Reagan administration's Dealings in Nicaragua, the illegal arms trade and the Contra drug connection. A gift from Jervis Zimmerman

Education in Developments by Norwegian peace educator Magnus Haavelsrud. The book theme is education as liberation in a political sense, showing how processes can move toward the realization of peace values

Prisoners, a novel by Wayne Karlin

From Curbstone Press in Willamantic, CT; an intricately woven tale involving memories of

Vietnam including those of three war veterans and a Vietnamese-American girl

Curricula

- Peace Quest*-peacemaking hands-on activities for a variety of ages, by Kelly Guinan, a gift from Elise Boulding
- Lives that Speak: Stories of Twentieth Century Quakers* by the Religious Education Committee of Friends General Conference
- The Kids Guide to Working Out Conflicts* by Naomi Drew. This is suitable for middle school and upper elementary age youngsters. Written to be read by students but best read with a teacher or parent. Includes sections on how conflicts start and grow, how to help friends in conflict, listening, anger, bullying and teasing and good resources. Naomi Drew is the author of numerous publications for educators, children and families.

Upcoming Events at Pax Educare-see our web site for monthly updates

- October 9 forum co-sponsored by Pax Educare-“**Nuclear Weapons and the Expansion of the American Empire**”-9 AM-1 PM at the Legislative Office Building-Hearing Room 2C. 523-4823.
- October 15-**Girls and Violence Conference**. Pax Educare is a member of the task force planning this day long event devoted to the special issues of violence and prevention unique to girls. Keynote speaker is Lyn Mikel Brown, author of “*Girlfighting: Betrayal and Rejection Among Girls*” and Associate Professor at Colby College. www.preventionworksct.org .
- October 26th-4th Tuesday of the month discussion series at 5:30-topic TBA. Co-sponsored by the CT Coalition for Peace and Justice. Advisory Board member Helen Raisz is helping to organize.
- November 2-Mary Lee will conduct a workshop for teachers and staff of the Synergy Alternative High School in East Hartford with Jo Ann Frieberg, Educational Director of Operation Respect (www.operationrespectct.org). Topic will be gender and sexuality in relation to issues of bullying and teasing and harassment.
- November 5-launching of **winter film series** at Pax Educare-7:30 PM. “Coffee, Corn and the Cost of Globalization”, produced by the Mennonite Central Committee.
- November 23-4th Tuesday discussion group at 5:30.
- December 3-film series at 7:30.
- December 4 and 5-**Open Studio Artist’s Weekend**. Pax Educare will be open these two days to browse, chat and to enjoy refreshments. We look forward to seeing you. 11-5 Saturday and 12-5 on Sunday. The film *Whispers on the Wind* will be shown several times-interviews with Thich Nhat Hanh, Barbara Marx Hubbard, Harry Wu and others in an uplifting and spiritual odyssey of what makes for peace.

Future 2005 Engagements



The Adaskin String Trio, with pianist Sally Pinkus, will perform a benefit concert for Pax Educare on February 12 at the home of Karen and Phil Will in Hartford. Details will follow.

Magical Strings will return to perform their melodious sounds for a peace concert in March or April.



- Mary Lee will teach a course in Global Perspectives during the Saint Joseph College winter intercession in early January.
- Tuesday discussion series will continue in the New Year, fourth Tuesday at 5:30

Some Recent Events at Pax Educare

- ❖ In March we were interviewed on WDRC radio with host Beth Bradley, together with 2 UConn student interns and 2 talented Batchelder middle school students, about the work in violence prevention they are doing at Batchelder. The youth group was a recipient of one of the youth mini grants awarded by the Hartford Youth Violence Prevention Initiative, of which Pax Educare was coordinator.
- ❖ In March we also lectured to a class at the Neag School of Education at UConn, on "the Peaceable Classroom-from Principles and Pedagogy to Participant Action".
- ❖ In late March we sent a packet of peace education materials (with help from the Curriculum of Hope Project) with Ray Boucher, who took them to Uganda to share, where he was participating in a peace mission with the Friends Peace Teams Project.
- ❖ Magical Strings returned in early April for a concert in the Good Shepherd Parish House ballroom.
- ❖ In May the Hartford Youth Violence Prevention Coalition, of which Pax Educare was coordinator, was able to give the Empowered Youth for Social Change organization, youth from the Hartford area committed to preventing violence, an additional \$500 for their work.
- ❖ In May we helped to sponsor the Children's Peace Festival, held on the grounds of the Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford.
- ❖ Pax Educare was featured in the Spring issue of *Peace in Action*, the publication of the Foundation for a Peaceful Environment Among Communities Everywhere (PEACE). Copies of the publication are sent to leaders in the U.S. administration, including Congress, embassies abroad and in the U.S., as well as to subscribers and supporters.
- ❖ In July we were co-sponsors of a peace concert by musician Steven Smith, organized by the West Hartford Citizens for Peace and Justice.
- ❖ In mid-July we facilitated a mini HIPP family workshop, with youth trainer Eliana Alvarez, a student at Bulkeley High and the Greater Hartford Academy of Performing Arts, for several families associated with Trust House. Trust House is fellow organizational member of the Hartford Youth Violence Prevention Initiative. The workshop was held in the Parish ballroom.



Eliana Alvarez with several of the children at the Trust House workshop

HIPP at the Village



- ❖ In early August, we facilitated a HIPP workshop, along with Marcia Morris of the American Friends Service Committee and several of the Empowered Youth, for Burr students in the summer program, held at the Village for Families and Children, Trolley Barn building.



- ❖ In mid-August Pax Educare helped to promote Stonewalk, an initiative of Families for a Peaceful Tomorrow (www.peacefultomorrow.org) and participated in part of the Connecticut portion of the walk. We marched alongside a Memorial to Unknown Civilians Killed in War, pulled on a cart.

Walkers trekking from Portland to Middletown CT-Stonewalk

- ❖ In September we were co-sponsors of the third annual Hope Out Loud Festival in Bushnell Park.
- ❖ In September we participated in a focus group, hosted by the World Affairs Council, as part of an initiative by the State Department of Education, to identify criteria that would enable a Connecticut secondary school to be called an “International School”.
- ❖ In September we also hosted a get-together of academics and educators from various institutions in the greater Hartford area to get acquainted, share ideas and facilitated a discussion on the queries “how do we share with our students our sense of urgency in building a culture of peace? How do we help build peace in the classroom?”
- ❖ Our annual Advisory Board meeting was held during the third week of September.

News Updates for Pax Educare

Two exciting events have recently occurred. In mid-August we secured space at 56 Arbor and moved the Center to a recently abandoned artist’s studio on the second floor. We were feeling the need to be closer to colleagues and to home, yet to stay in Hartford. We are grateful to the members of the Church of the Good Shepherd at 155 Wyllys and to their pastor, Richard Silbereis, for their welcoming us and helping us to get started in such a lovely space at 155 Wyllys for our first two years.

We are beginning the process of applying for our own 501 c 3 status and are working with the Connecticut Urban Legal Initiatives associated with the UConn Law School. We will continue, gratefully, to be fiscally associated with the Center for Serenity until our application process is completed.

Thanks to Boyce Upholt for his work with us this summer. Boyce helped us with marketing, cataloguing of new material, as well as helped with our move. Boyce is a student at Haverford College. Thanks also to Nandan Shetty, student at Dartmouth College, for his help with promoting Stonewalk and help with a mailing this summer.

We are actively seeking one or two student interns-if you are anyone you know is interested, call or email us.

Film Festival

Pax Educare is hosting a monthly winter film festival, beginning November 5 at 7:30. We will show the film “Coffee, Corn and the Cost of Globalization”, on loan from the Mennonite Central Committee. Ideas for future films are welcome. The December showing will be on the 3rd of the month. Series will continue on the first Friday of the month through March. Discussion will follow each showing. BYOP (Bring your own popcorn!)

Here is an excerpt of what a Watkinson student wrote about her HIPP experience

I can now have a serious conversation with someone about racism and I won't be clueless! Maya

Youth Violence Coalition Continues

We are grateful for the financial and technical support of the Governor’s Prevention Partnership that enabled the Hartford Youth Violence Prevention Initiative to develop and sustain itself this year. Our funding ended in June, but we are continuing to meet, to promote HIPP and our cross-organizational networking and sharing. Active members continue to be Pax Educare, Burr School with new member Michelle Costa, director of their After School initiative, Watkinson School and Trust House.

Peace Connections

The Boston Research Center for the 21st Century, in conjunction with their forthcoming book *Educating Global Citizens* (working title), has developed a list of over 30 programs for educators in middle and high school. http://www.brc21.org/resources/res_crgce.html

There is much peace education going on in other parts of the world. **The Hague Appeal for Peace** puts out a periodic newsletter by email that describes interesting initiatives and activities as well as ideas for educating for peace. For more information go to www.haguepeace.org

"The People Speak: American Power and Global Security: featuring Douglas Bennet, former Assistant Secretary of State and other speakers, moderated by ABC's Ron Claiborne. 7 PM, October 6, Luce Hall, Yale University. Sponsored by UNA-CT and UN Studies, Yale. www.ThePeopleSpeak.org.

"Faith, Politics and the Soul of America", a lecture by the Rev. Andrea Ayzavian, Dean of Religious Life at Mount Holyoke College, will be held October 7 at 7 PM at the Charter Oak Cultural Center, 21 Charter Oak Place in Hartford. Co-sponsored with the Hartford Seminary. For more information call 860-509-9519.

"Reimagining Self and Other: Creativity and Ethical Action in the Aftermath of Violence", a symposium of the Brandeis International Fellowship Program in Recasting Reconciliation Through Culture and the Arts will be held October 13-14 at Brandeis University, Waltham, MA. For more information, go to www.brandeis.edu/ethics or call 781-736-5001.

The World Affairs Council of CT upcoming noon luncheon seminars: www.worldaffairs-htd.org
October 5-Michael Klare, author of *Blood and Oil: the Dangers and Consequences of America's Growing Petroleum Dependency*.
October 27-Robert Kaplan, Atlantic Monthly Correspondent and author of several books.

Both held at One State Street Café, One State Street, Hartford. \$40 WAC members, \$50 public. Speech only \$10/15. Students free. Phone-860-594-4101

"Conscience and War: Helping Each Other Explore Our Leadings". A weekend course at Pendle Hill, led by war resister and tax refuser Rosa Packard and Jim Hamilton, a conscientious objector and counselor with the G.I Rights Hotline. October 22-24. Pendle Hill is a Quaker center for study and contemplation in Wallingford, PA, outside of Philadelphia. www.phpeace.net/

"Education for a Culture of Peace and Justice: Human Rights Perspectives". Teachers College of Columbia University. October 29-30; November 5-6. A workshop as an introduction to the standards, history, conceptions and attributes of human rights and various human rights organizations. For educators, policy and curriculum specialists, community based providers. Credit and CEUs offered. For more information on this and other offerings from the **Peace Education Center at Columbia**, go to www.tc.edu/PeaceEd or email to ceoi_mail@tc.columbia.edu. Phone is 800-209-1245.

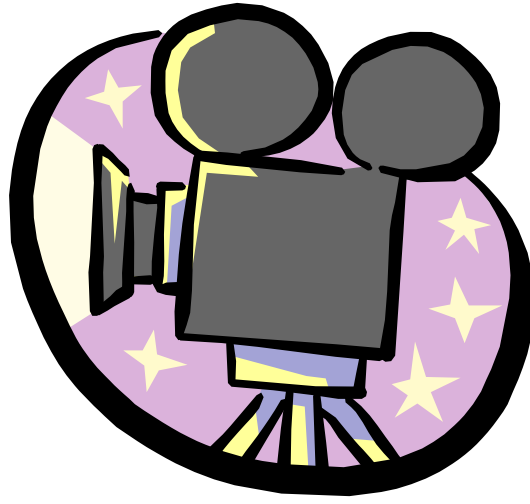
A retreat on nonviolence for college students will be hosted by the **Agape Community** in Ware, MA November 5-7. For more information go to www.agapecommunity.org.

The **U.S. Institute of Peace** has a host of resources for educators on various international issues. www.usip.org.

The University of Connecticut and its UNESCO Chair and Institute of Comparative Human Rights will host a conference **November 9** from 9-1 in the Student Union Theater. The topic will be "Human Rights in the Media". For more information call 860-486-0647 or go to www.unescochair.edu. For UConn's Human Rights Institute web site go to www.humanrights.uconn.edu

Virginia Swain, Director of the **Institute for Global Leadership** in Worcester, MA, announces a December 3-5 course, "The Practice of Reconciliation Leadership" at Cambridge Friends Meeting, Cambridge, MA. A course, "Reconciliation of Polarities" will be held November 19-21 in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. For more information, call Virginia at 508-753-4172.

The CT Against Gun Violence Education Fund is soliciting essays from high school students, designed to provide a creative outlet for young people to make a positive statement about gun violence prevention. They are hosting their third annual **Art and Writing Contest**. Winners in various categories will be awarded \$500. Deadline is November 30 for submissions. For questions and guidelines call the CAGV Education Fund at 203-268-3050 or go to <http://cagved.org>. **Pax Educare will be serving on the review panel for the awards.**



**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE INAUGURATION
OF THE WINTER FILM SERIES AT PAX EDUCARE**

***We will be showing the short video produced by the
Mennonite Central Committee
"Coffee, Corn and the Cost of Globalization"***

***followed by a discussion of the film
and related issues***

**Friday, November 5 at 7:30
56 Arbor Street, 2nd floor**

For more information contact Pax Educare at 231-0445 or 930-3182 or email us
at paxeducare@comcast.net

Pax Educare Board of Directors

Carolann Boucher, Ray Boucher, Ronnie Casella, Alex Mikulich, Mary Lee Morrison, Diane Weinholtz

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David Adams	Miriam Bergamini
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Staff

Founder and Director
Mary Lee Morrison Ph.D., LCSW

Assistant and Webmaster
Gretchen Upholt

We are available for speaking to community and religious groups and for teacher in-service programs. We particularly like to engage in dialogue about building a culture of peace.

Monthly Quaker Meeting for Worship at Pax Educare-2nd Tuesday of the Month at 5:30. All are welcome. Join us for soup. Next meeting will be October 12.

Thanks to the following donors to Pax Educare in 2004: *Ginny and Tim Allen, Elise Boulding, Ronnie Casella, Andrea Cohen-Kiener, Beatrice Coward, Joy and Roger Floyd, Ruth Goldbaum, Dick and Ellen Klinck, Eileen Lawlor, Anne McKernan, Peggy Miller, Mary Lee Morrison and Bill Upholt, Jeanne Morascini, Ashley Nelson and Charles Hornewer, Brooke and Tom Nelson, Helen Raisz, Babs Reid, Connie Sattler, Virginia Swain, William and Barbara Taylor, Diane and Donn Weinholtz*

Donations to Pax Educare are gratefully accepted. Donations may be sent to Pax Educare: 56 Arbor 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:

Student and low income	\$20	\$35 Individual	\$50
Family Benefactor	\$80	Friend of Pax Educare	\$125 Patron
			\$250

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