

LOCAL CHAPTERS AND VIGILS

We can't do it all from our office in Bloomfield. We count on our local chapters, vigils and peace sites to be a visible presence in our communities working for peace and justice. We celebrate the ongoing efforts of all our chapters, vigil groups and peace sites and here include a brief description of the ongoing work of each group. (See Activism pages for photos.)

FORT LEE PEACEVIGIL was launched in June 2005. We stand against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and against imperialism, and we challenge governments worldwide—from the U.S. to China—to examine their foreign policies, to end human rights abuses, and to support the basic rights and freedoms of all. We also call on governments to use peaceful means to resolve conflicts—diplomacy not militarism; dialogue not combat—and to engage in constructive debate in order to achieve justice and reconciliation. The Fort Lee Peace Vigil meets at the corner of Lemoine Avenue and Bruce Reynolds Boulevard from 5 to 6 p.m. every Thursday. The contact number is 201-694-7055. Anyone is welcome to join us in our work for peace.

GANDHIAN FORUM FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE AT WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY engages high school, college, and university students and teachers in innovative and practical ideas, actions, and programs that promote peace and justice through cooperative engagement, dialogue, and respect for opposing views and opinions. NJPA is proud that its Executive Director, Madelyn Hoffman, is on the Forum's Advisory Board. The Forum hosted war correspondent and anti-war activist Chris Hedges this past February.

LAKELAND UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP, a peace site, presents sermons, programs, and movies dealing with important social, environmental, peace, and justice issues. "Iraq Today," the "Purgen Power Plant" in Linden, NJ and the "Out of Afghanistan" programs were informative and timely, and presented by experts on the subjects. The "Prosecute Them Now" group meets regularly to oversee the politics of yesterday, today, and the future. Our minister, the Reverend Ann Benedetto, offers earth-connected, progressive and socially important sermons. The U2 cafe offers a movie series that featured Michael Moore films *Sicko* and *Capitalism: A Love Story*. We are also a recruitment "Opt Out" site offering forums and literature to young students to help them deal with propaganda and pressure from military recruiters.

MONTCLAIR PEACE VIGIL continues to hold its signs for peace each Friday evening at the corner where Bloomfield Avenue meets Fullerton and Church Streets from 3:30 to 5:00 pm in winter and from 4:30 to 6:00 during Daylight Savings Time.

MORRISTOWN PEACE VIGIL has been held on the Green in Morristown every Friday, from 6 to 7 pm, without interruption since the Friday after 9/11. At first, many of the passersby were hostile to the vigils. As years passed, more and more people started flashing us peace signs and thanking us for speaking out. After the November 2008 election, many people asked us if we were going to stop holding vigils since Barack Obama had been elected. We answered with another question, "Is the war still going on?" In fact, President Obama is reluctant to remove all U.S. troops from Iraq and is bent on increasing U.S. presence in Afghanistan. So we will continue to hold vigils for the foreseeable future. For more information, visit www.morristownpeace.org.

NORTHWEST NJ PEACE FELLOWSHIP continues to wage peace in the rural communities of Sussex County. Every Friday, a dedicated group gathers on the Newton Green, demanding an immediate withdrawal from Iraq and a peaceful future for our community, country and world. We also organize participation in national and statewide events. We organized a contingent for this year's March 20 antiwar demonstration in Washington, DC. We will be joining with people from around the world for nuclear disarmament in New York City on May 2.

PLAINFIELD PEACE VIGIL and the Union County Peace Council (UCPC) conduct a vigil in front of the Rahway/Plainfield Friends Meeting House, 225 Watchung Ave. in Plainfield, from noon to 1:00 PM every Saturday and sponsor an annual Peace Fair in downtown Cranford.