

**SOMERSET VOICES FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE From the Coffeehouse to the Recruiting Station.**

As calls for invasion of Iraq grew louder in October 2002, concerned citizens began a vigil for peace in Hillsborough. We stood with our signs throughout the winter urging people to contact their congressional representatives to oppose the threatened invasion. The Somerset Voices for Peace and Justice was born from these early vigils. Contact: [songs4neace@earthlink.net](mailto:songs4neace@earthlink.net) for more information.

**SOUTH MOUNTAIN PEACE ACTION** has become part of the fabric of the communities of Maplewood and South Orange. A recent *Star Ledger* article about Maplewood described the town as "a left-leaning suburban basin with annual 'Be About Peace' days," which SMPA has organized every year since 2005. In 2009 we continued to participate in community events throughout the year, such as the Memorial Day Parade, Mayfest, Maplewoodstock, South Orange Community Day and Seton Hall's University Day, to name a few. We held Be About Peace Day at the Burgdorff Center at the end of May and included for the first time an all-day concert for peace organized by local high school musical groups. In December we began to plan a community forum on Israeli-Palestinian Peace focusing on the Obama program for a two-state solution, held in March. Details can be viewed on our website at [www.BeAboutPeace.com](http://www.BeAboutPeace.com).

**ST. PETER CLAVER CHURCH** and NJ Peace Action have had an especially strong partnership for over 10 years. The church, one of our peace sites, has hosted numerous NJPA Annual Meetings, as well as a variety of programs on topics ranging from economic conversion from the military economy to a peace economy to a film presentation on torture of detainees at Guantanamo Prison and Bagram Prison. Over the years, it has also hosted a family peace program, a speaker's workshop, and most recently, a planning meeting to help NJPA organize around nuclear disarmament. Many NJPA members were at St. Peter Claver to hear Fr. G. Simon Harak speak about his experience with the group "Voices in the Wilderness" in Iraq on the evening the bombs began falling in Iraq, March 19, 2003. We look forward to holding future programs and meetings at the church—a place that truly lives up to its designation as a NJ Peace Action peace site!

**TEANECK BRING THE TROOPS HOME NOW! VIGIL** began as a monthly vigil before the war on Afghanistan. Then, during the summer of 2005, we became a weekly vigil at the National Guard Armory at Teaneck Road and Liberty Road in Teaneck, every Wednesday, between 4:30 and 6:00 pm. The members of the vigil include veterans, military families, and other area residents. Vigil members have helped organize film showings and educational forums, poetry, art, and song events, feeder marches to regional demonstrations, as well as buses to larger anti-war marches. There are special mobilizations marking the anniversaries of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the anniversary of our vigil, the death of 1000, 2000, 3000, and 4000 U.S. troops and millions of people from Iraq and Afghanistan. The vigil is sponsored by Military Families Speak Out, Bergen County Chapter, Veterans for Peace, Chapter 21 NJ, and Teaneck Peace and Justice Coalition.

**WEEHAWKEN CITIZENS FOR PEACE** is proud of our association with NJPA dating back to the late '60s, in the days of Dorothy Eldridge and NJ SANE. We marked our rebirth with a candlelight vigil on March 19, 2003. We have held vigils at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument ever since. The location, facing the expanse of Manhattan Island, attracts people from all over the world. Our "Honk for Peace" sign gets a good response. We participate in the annual Memorial Day Parade. We have a display of military from NJ who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan.

