

# ◆ The New Jersey Peacemaker ◆

Publication of New Jersey Peace Action and New Jersey Peace Action Education Fund

Volume 9, Issue 3

Founded 1957, 47 Years of Citizen Action

Winter 2004

**New Jersey Peace Action and New Jersey Peace Action Education Fund, formerly SANE/Freeze, founded in 1957, are committed to working through grassroots citizen action to abolish nuclear weapons, promote an end to domestic and international weapons trafficking (including abolition of Hand Gun violence), demilitarize the federal budget, and teach non-violent conflict resolution.**

## **officers/Staff**

President NJPA  
*PEGGY MONGES*

President NJPAEF  
*Richard SCHUCKMAN*

Vice President  
*KIT MARLOWE*

Treasurer  
*dAVE BRESSEN*

Director  
*Madelyn Hoffman*

ORGANIZER  
*Lisa Brown*

PHONEBANKER  
*VIRGINIA AHEARN*

ADMINISTRATIVE Assistant  
*Anna Munetsi-Bull en*

## Election Aftermath is Focus of Soup Speakers

Nearly 300 members and supporters of NJPA gathered at Columbia High School in Maplewood on Nov. 13 for our annual soup event. We were welcomed by Maplewood Vice-Mayor David Huemer, who in 2003 voted for a township resolution opposing preemptive war.

An excellent line-up of speakers was there to address a topic that was on many minds, little more than a week after George W. Bush apparently won another four years in office and while fighting raged in the Iraqi city of Falluja: "After the Elections: Where Do We Go From Here?"

The keynote speaker was Frances Fox Piven, a well-known political scientist, social critic and activist and author of such book as "Why Americans Still Don't Vote: And Why Politicians Want It That Way" and "The War at Home: The Domestic Costs of Bush's Militarism."

Piven discussed the possibility that the 2004 election was stolen, how the Republican party cast itself as the party of "moral values" and the increased voter turnout.

She painted a grim picture of the likely extremism of a

second Bush administration given larger GOP majorities in both houses of Congress and Bush's seeming belief in a mandate.

The silver lining she saw was that economic crisis and ongoing war might end up thwarting the administration's agenda in part by sparking broad opposition and splitting the right-wing.

Congressman Donald Payne, a Democrat who represents NJ's 10th district in Congress, which includes Maplewood, also spoke.

He too addressed the so-called "moral values" message sent by the pro-Bush vote. How moral is it to start a war based on lies about weapons of mass destruction, to abuse prisoners at Abu Ghraib and to cut funding for health care and education while rewarding the wealthiest with massive tax cuts, he asked.

Payne also questioned the claim of a Bush landslide, pointing out that Bush won by the slimmest margin for a sitting president since Woodrow Wilson in 1916.

Payne's colleague, Rep. Barbara Lee, a California Democrat, had also been invited. Lee is a hero to many for casting the lone vote in Congress against handing



**Frances Fox Piven**  
Photo by Clint Hebard

Bush a blank check in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks. She was unable to attend but sent a statement of support.

Ramapo College Prof. Henry Frundt, spoke of the three essential elements for success of a social movement.

The historically close vote for an incumbent provides us with the first of these, political opportunity. We must work harder on the other two: defining a shared vision and creating a network to carry that vision forward.

NJPA is committed to working on these goals and, with your help, we will achieve them.

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

**April 17, 2005**

NJ Peace Action's  
Annual Dinner  
Speaker TBA