

◆ The New Jersey Peacemaker ◆

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Founded 1957, 48 Years of Citizen Action

Spring-Summer 2005

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.

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ALI SPEAKS OF SAVAGE CHAOS IN IRAQ

Activist and author Tariq Ali was honored with the Dorothy Eldridge Peacemaker Award at this year's 48th annual dinner on April 17.

Ali, who was born in Pakistan when it was still part of India and educated in England, where he now resides, spoke of the Bush administration's failure to anticipate the steep cost of the Iraq war, in lives and dollars, the "savage chaos" of the occupation, and the failure of the recent elections to improve the situation, as evidenced by the 300,000 Iraqis who rallied in Baghdad against the U.S. presence just 10 days before the dinner.

He compared Iraq to Vietnam. The media did a better job then of showing the horrors of war than today's embedded journalists, whose sanitized reports are vetted by the Pentagon. And having learned then the lesson that a draft, which affects everyone, will breed broad opposition to war, the U.S. is unlikely to reinstate conscription, in Ali's view. Instead, he predicts a gradual pullout and the build-up of a "puppet army," backed by privatized mercenaries, a true "coalition of the

shilling."

Though some, like Scott Ritter, believe an attack on Iran is in the works, Ali was skeptical because the U.S. needs Iran's tacit support to continue its occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan. It would also undermine hope for change from within brought about by the youth of Iran who chafe under clerical rule.

The war abroad is closely linked to the war on the poor at home, said Ali. He spoke of a young Marine, just returned from Iraq, who told him he had enlisted because he was less afraid to take his chances in Iraq than to risk the street violence or incarceration that face minorities here.

Other highlights were the Central Jersey Coalition Against Endless War receiving the Sylvia and Oscar Ackelsberg award for projects like the Iraq Memorial Wall and Handprints Project. The Peace Action Person of



TARIQ ALI
Photo by Cindy Smith

the Year award went jointly to Clint Hebard and Lisa Brown of Highlands Peace Action for their efforts in making the new chapter such a vital part of NJPA.

In addition to those honors traditionally handed out at the annual dinner were some added ones. Long-time members, many active as far back as the 1960's, were recognized for their decades of activism. And Peggy Monges, president of NJPA since 1998, received a special award from the Board for her hard work and dedication as the longest-serving president in NJPA history.

SAVE THE DATE!

Nov. 12, 2005

NJ Peace Action's 49th Annual Soup Lunch with

DANIEL ELLSBERG

(of Pentagon Papers fame)

MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD GETS LEFT BEHIND: JUST SAY “NO” TO MILITARY RECRUITMENT

Many people are unaware that a provision in the No Child Left Behind Act forces schools to turn over student contact information to military recruiters. Before the law passed, the opposite was true: schools could NOT help recruiters target teenagers unless they had the parents' permission. At first, few parents were aware of the recruitment provision in the NCLB Act and schools did little if anything to advise them. The result was that recruiters were getting carte blanche access to impressionable high school kids.

Now, armed with information and a determination to protect their youth, communities are fighting back. On March 28, NJPA and Montclair H.S. students from the organization OYE OYE presented a program called “Hidden Military Recruitment in the No Child Left Behind Act: What Teachers, Parents and Students Need to Know.” The students described how they convinced their school board to take steps that heightened awareness of the opt-out law and resulted in 91% of parents refusing to give recruiters information about their children.

The March 28 forum was meant to help others follow the Montclair example by sharing what the students did. First, they framed the issue as one of students' privacy, rather than one of American foreign policy or the role of the military. They also convinced the administration to survey parents on the issue as part of the annual registration process, utilizing materials created by the students themselves. (NJPA will supply that information packet and provide contact information for the Montclair High School students on request.) Attending the March 28 program were students -- high school and college, teachers, guidance counselors and social workers from towns in Bergen, Essex, Mercer, Morris, Passaic and Union Counties.

Groups across the country are rallying behind H.Rep. 551, the “Students' Privacy Protection Act,” which would amend the law to change opt-OUT back to opt-IN. The bill, introduced by Rep. Mike Honda, D-CA, on Feb. 2, has two co-sponsors from NJ, William Pascrell and Frank Pallone. If you're in their district, call or write to thank them. If not, contact your own Rep. and ask him to become a co-sponsor of H.R. 551. For information about follow-up events and how to spread awareness of the opt-out provision, contact NJPA or visit www.leavemychildalone.org

2005 Lobbying Day Trip

On April 12, five-person delegation travelled to Washington, D.C on NJPA's annual lobbying trip. First they were briefed by national Peace Action's Kevin Martin and Beth Fitzgerald on the Markey-Spratt letter (already signed by Congressman Donald Payne), which opposes funding new nuclear weapons. John Isaacs of Council for a Livable World gave an overview of the PIPA Report, “The Federal Budget: The Public's Priorities,” a survey showing most Americans back a decrease in military spending (especially on nuclear weapons) and an increase in social spending.

They then met with aides for Sens. Lautenberg and Corzine and Reps. Garrett, Payne, Rothman, Menendez, Pascrell, and Frelinghuysen. Topics of discussion included continued opposition to new nuclear weapons, plans for dismantling loose nukes, the need for an exit plan for Iraq without leaving bases behind, torture here

and abroad and the need to shift federal budget priorities to social programs. NJPA members left copies of the Markey-Spratt material and the PIPA report along with information on NJ tax dollars. NJPA asks its members and friends to contact their members of Congress to follow up on these lobbying efforts.

**JOIN THE EFFORT—CALL WASHINGTON
Congressional Switchboard: 202.225.3121**

IN MEMORIAM

*Margaret and
Harold Mannheimer*

Long-time members and supporters
of New Jersey Peace Action

Dear NJPA Members and Friends,

Even if you are NOT YET A MEMBER, NJ Jersey Peace Action needs your financial support now! The Bush Administration wants to develop and use NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS NOW. Last year, we stopped them from getting the funding for nuclear bunker busters and we CAN STOP THEM AGAIN WITH YOUR HELP.

NJPA has been working hard this year to move us from a culture of war to a culture of peace. Just a few of the things we have done:

- *Sent a delegation to DC on April 12 to lobby on issues such as opposing bunker busters
- *RALLIED with 40,000 people, including Japanese peace activists, in NYC on May 1 to support the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and demand the troops be brought home now.
- *Participated in the CAMPAIGN TO STOP THE APPROVAL OF JOHN BOLTON as U.S. delegate to the UN. We have succeeded at least in delaying approval of someone so unqualified for this important job and hope to defeat the nomination.

In the coming months, we will

- *Continue to DEMAND withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan
- *LOBBY against “bunker busters” AGAIN
- *EDUCATE around conditions in Afghanistan (NOTE: NJPA Director Madelyn Hoffman will return June 22 from a woman-to-woman peace and fact-finding mission to that country)
- *SUPPORT U.S. compliance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
- *OBSERVE the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with “Never Again” demonstrations and teach-ins
- *TABLE at fairs and festivals throughout the spring, summer and fall to educate our fellow New Jerseyans about our issues
- *HIRE an intern to work directly with the media, to get our message on TV and radio and in the weekly and daily newspapers regularly
- *DENOUNCE the Patriot Act in letter campaigns to newspapers and legislators, in protests, and in tabling efforts
- *Work on counter-recruitment, especially to protect high school students

If you received this newsletter, and you are not already a member of New Jersey Peace Action, I ask you to join us now. Your membership dollars are vital to our continued work for peace. If you are a member, please take this opportunity to send in an extra contribution to fund the important organizing work we will be doing over the coming weeks and months.

Please return the coupon on the back of this page with your check or credit card information. Your money will be put to IMMEDIATE use. Thank you for being part of this important work for a peaceable future.

In peace,
Peggy Monges, President, NJPA

LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

DE-FUND THE BUNKER BUSTER: Last year, the peace and justice movement succeeded in defunding the development of the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator but this year, it's back again. The Bush administration is asking Congress for \$8.5 million for the project for FY 2006. Please contact your Representatives and Senators immediately to urge them NOT to vote for ANY funding for this weapon of mass destruction.

OPPOSE DEPLETED URANIUM WEAPONS: Support The Depleted Uranium Munitions Study Act of 2005, H.R. 2410, introduced by Rep. Jim McDermott, D-WA, on May 17. Only one NJ Rep., Robert Andrews, is currently a co-sponsor. Call your Rep. and urge him to sign onto the bill, which calls for medical and scientific studies on the health and environmental impact of the U.S. military's use of depleted uranium munitions in combat zones, including Iraq. It also calls for cleanup of DU-contaminated sites in the U.S. Many believe use of these radioactive weapons is the real cause of Gulf War syndrome.

HOLD THE ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABLE FOR A WAR BASED ON LIES: Rep. John Conyers, D-MI, is looking for 100,000 people to sign a letter to Bush demanding answers concerning a recently leaked British memo. Largely ignored by the U.S. media, the memo is a smoking gun that shows the Bush administration had already decided to invade Iraq by July 2002, and planned to cook the intelligence because it could not make a case for war based on terrorist ties or weapons of mass destruction. To sign the letter, go to www.johnconyers.com

PHONE NUMBERS TO CALL:

White House 202.456.1111

Congress Switchboard 202.225.3121

Sen. Jon Corzine 973.645.3030

Sen. Frank Lautenberg 973.639.8700

Rep. Donald Payne 973.645.3213

Rep. William Pascrell Jr. 973.523.5152

Rep. Scott Garrett 973.300.2000

Rep. Steve Rothman 201.646.0808

Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen 973.984.0711

Rep. Robert Menendez 201.222.2828

Rep. Michael Ferguson 908.757.7835

Please return this coupon with your check or credit card info to NJPA, 89 Walnut St., Montclair, NJ 07042.

_____ I am not yet a member and would like to join. Enclosed is my check or credit card number for:

_____ \$ 35 Regular dues _____ \$ 52 Dollar-a-week for Peace _____ \$100 Supporter
 _____ \$250 Sponsor _____ \$500 Patron _____ \$1000 Benefactor

Name on Card _____ Exp. Date _____ Credit Card No. _____

_____ I would like to make a special contribution to help NJPA hire an organizer.

_____ \$200 _____ \$100 _____ \$75 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ \$10 other \$ _____

For a contribution of \$50 or more, choose one of these 3' X 5' flags as a premium:

_____ Peace Flag w/Red & White Stripe _____ Blue Peace Flag _____ Earth Flag

_____ Please add me to the e-mail legislative action alert.

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ ZIP _____ Tel. No. _____

E-mail Address _____

(Or send us your e-mail address by e-mail to njpeaceaction@verizon.net)

*New Jersey Peace Action thanks all those who supported our work
by placing an ad in the 2005 Dinner Journal*

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**Important Contact
 Information:**

Phone: (973) 744-3263
 Fax: (973) 509-9774
 E-mail: njpeaceaction@verizon.net
 www.njpeaceaction.org

Quote for the Season . . .

“Dissent is the highest form of patriotism.”

—Thomas Jefferson.
 Third President of the U.S. (1801-09)
 Author, Declaration of Independence

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 9, Thurs. **Panel Discussion:** Military Families Against the War in Iraq, with Sue Niederer and others.
 7:30 p.m. Maplewood Library. Sponsored by South Orange-Maplewood Committee to Stop the War
- June 15, Wed. **Film:** “Unconstitutional: The War on Our Civil Liberties. Part of the Reel Perspective
 7:30 p.m. Film Series at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Somerset Hills in Somerset.
- June 22, Tues. **The USA Patriot Act: What’s Wrong With It and How You Can Help Clean It Up.** Meeting
 on what it takes to pass a resolution against the Patriot Act. At the Somerset County Library.
 Sponsored by Somerset Voices for Peace & Justice, Somerset chapter of ACLU-NJ and
 Bridgewater Progressive Studies Group.
- July 4 **Montclair July 4th Parade.** March with NJPA in a peace contingent.
- Aug. 6, Sat. **Highlands Peace Action Second Annual Folk Music Benefit** for NJPA & Highlands PA .
 2-7 p.m. With Vance Gilbert, Gaia Wolf, Bev Grant (w/ Robin Burdulis) and SONia.
 At the Weis Ecology Center, Ringwood. Swimming and children’s programs too.
 Advance tickets \$25, \$10-for-kids. More info at www.highlandsppeaceaction.org
- Aug. 6-9 Events marking **60th Anniversary** of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- Aug. 9 **Peace Fair** in Cranford.
- Sept. 18 **Benefit Concert** for NJPA. Featuring Charlie King and Karen Brandow with Catherine Moon.
 7-9:30 p.m. Location to be announced.
- Sept. 24 **March and Rally Against the War.** Part of 3-day mass mobilization in D.C. organized by United
 for Peace and Justice. For more info, call NJPA office.
- Nov. 12 **NJPA Annual Soup Lunch** with guest speaker **Daniel Ellsberg** at Columbia H.S. in Maplewood.