

# ◆ The New Jersey Peacemaker ◆

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Founded 1957, 45 Years of Citizen Action

Summer 2002

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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## Kucinich Discusses Proposed Department of Peace

The best of church and state were with New Jersey Peace Action when Rev. John Dear, S.J., and Rep. Dennis Kucinich received the Dorothy Eldridge Peacemaker Award. at our Annual Dinner on April 21.

Dear, a Jesuit priest, long-time peace activist and author who served as coordinator of the Ground Zero chaplains, spoke movingly of counseling the bereaved as “heartbreaking” but at times inspiring. He quoted the wisdom of a woman who had lost her 30-year-old son as “the real response of a peacemaker”: “John, I have no room for anger. Bombing the hijackers will never bring back my son, heal my grief or end my suffering.”

Dear called for an end to the bombing of Afghanistan, the sanctions against Iraq, military aid to Israel and other countries, as well as ratification of nuclear disarmament accords, support for the world court and a redirection of our wealth to feed every starving child, — all as part of ending the spiral of violence.

“Violence doesn’t work. Violence is not just

immoral and illegal, it’s downright impractical. State-sanctioned terrorism in response to terrorism will only increase terrorism. War can never stop terrorism, it is terrorism,” said Dear.

Kucinich, the Ohio Democrat who has spoken out so eloquently against the militarism of the U.S. response to Sept. 11 and the suppression of civil liberties at home, discussed H.R. 2459, his bill to create a Cabinet-level Dept. of Peace and make nonviolence “an organizing principle in our society.” Initial reaction was skeptical but support is growing, said Kucinich.

The bill is meant to confront the assumption that war is inevitable, by “looking at and challenging this culture of domestic

violence, spousal abuse, child abuse, violence in our schools and streets.” Creating a department devoted to peace will let the world know that is what we stand for, said Kucinich, who envisions “nothing less than the qualitative transformation of our social, political and economic structure.”

Sylvia Zisman was honored with the Sylvia and Oscar Ackelsberg Peace Award for her work on Hiroshima remembrance, depleted uranium and other issues. Board member Kit Marlowe received overdue recognition as NJPA Person of the Year.

*Congratulations to NJPA founding member Sarah Mesrobian, who won the raffle for a handmade Nicaraguan*

NJPA President Peggy Monges, Rev. John Dear, and Director Madelyn Hoffman.



## Director's Corner

Dear Friends,

Let me take this opportunity to thank all of you who helped make our 45th Annual Dinner such a success!! That includes all participants, volunteers, and those who contributed to NJ Peace Action without being able to join us on the day. Many of you said this year's dinner was one of the best you had ever attended. Given the long and remarkable history of NJ Peace Action, those words mean a great deal!

It is gratifying to see the steady growth in the number of people involved with NJPA and working for peace. It is a welcome antidote to daily news reports about policy changes that threaten to increase instability worldwide, spark a new nuclear arms race, and further stifle dissent and questioning here at home. Your energy and enthusiasm help fuel our effort to express alternatives to war and to reach out to and involve more people in our work, so that we can build a strong and effective peace movement to effect change in New Jersey and throughout the world.

I thank all who have written Rep. Frelinghuysen about the "robust nuclear earth penetrator;" signed a petition supporting Rep. Dennis Kucinich's Department of Peace; attended "Justice, Not War" meetings and on-going weekly vigils in Montclair, Morristown, Plainfield and Westwood; written Letters to the Editor; put together an Interfaith Service honoring the Hibakusha at the Basilica in Newark, signed up new Peace Sites; and much more. We are all doing what we can to counter the dangerous policies, both international and domestic, of the current administration.

June 12, 2002 marked the 20th anniversary of the Million Person Anti-Nuclear March held in New York City, the largest anti-nuclear march in U.S. history. In a cruel and ironic twist, on June 13, 2002, the administration officially withdrew from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with the former Soviet Union, a move which paves the way for development of missile defense, a new nuclear arms race and the militarization of space.

Please take a few minutes to read through this newsletter and find at least one thing you can do to add your voice to the growing number of people concerned about the world's future. Join our E-mail Alert list, volunteer in the office, phone your Senators and Congressional Representatives – EVERY ACTION MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

It is time for those who care about the future of the planet and those who live upon it to get organized once again and protect this world from the dangers of nuclear weapons and "war without end."

## SAVE THE DATE!

NJ Peace Action's  
45th Anniversary Soup Luncheon  
with activist and author **Michael Parenti**

Saturday, Nov. 16, 12:00 to 4:00 pm

St. Catherine of Siena Church

339 Pompton Ave. (Route 23) Cedar Grove

"U.S. leaders seem more interested in taking advantage of terrorist attacks than in preventing the conditions that breed them. They have neither the interest nor the will to make the kind of major changes in policy needed to dilute the hatred that so many people around the world feel toward U.S. power."

Michael Parenti, *The Terrorism Trap*



Kucinich on April 21 at  
NJPA Dinner



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Peace Action  
89 Walnut Street  
Montclair, N.J. 07042

**Important Contact  
Information:**

Phone: (973) 744-3263  
Fax: (973) 509-9774  
Email: njsane@igc.org  
www.njpeaceaction.org

**Quote for the Season . . .**

“A world at one and in peace is not some fanciful idea of bleeding hearts. It is a human right that all of us are working toward and I believe that someday, through our efforts, we will achieve it.”

*Congressman Dennis Kucinich at NJPA Annual Dinner  
April 21, Cedar Grove, New Jersey*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- July 14, Sun. NJPA Annual Membership Meeting followed by Pot Luck Meal. St. Peter Claver Church, Montclair. 1-4 p.m. Board member elections. Please contribute dish or \$6. For more info, call office, 973-744-3263.
- July 26-28 “Real Solutions for a Safer World.” Peace Action National Congress, Chicago. Featuring Rep. Dennis Kucinich, Bill Hartung of World Policy Institute and 9/11 widow/peace activist Amber Amundson. Events include special forums on Mid-East and demonstration at Boeing headquarters. Contact office.
- Aug. 9, Fri. Hibakusha events featuring Hiroshima/Nagasaki survivors. Program at Basilica in Newark at 11 a.m. Two events at St. Peter Claver Church n Montclair: International Dinner for Peace and Against Nuclear War, 5 to 7 p.m., and Interfaith Service, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Contact office for more information.
- Oct.24, Sun. "The Constitution in Crisis: A Year Since the U.S.A. Patriot Act" forum. TBA.
- Nov.2, Sat. “Peace Starts with Oneself” session facilitated by Naomi Drew, author of 4 books on peace. 1:30-4:30 p.m. Ethical Culture Society, Maplewood. Advanced registration, \$30, Peace Site members, \$25. Some scholarships available. Contact Betty Levin, 973-763-1033. Co-sponsored by NJPA & ECS.
- Nov. 8-10 Second Annual Weekend for Peace sponsored by NJPA, with all Peace Sites called on to organize Weekend for Peace. Contact NJPA office for info about becoming a Peace Site and participating.
- Nov.16, Sat. NJPA Annual Soup Lunch, with Michael Parenti, activist and author of “The Terrorist Trap.” 12-4 p.m. NEW LOCATION: St. Catherine of Siena Church, 339 Pompton Ave. (Rte. 23), Cedar Grove

**NJPA Notices**

The article in our last newsletter, entitled “Students Speak Out for Peace” by Bella August was printed with the permission of the People’s Organization for Progress and also appeared in POP’s newsletter.

NJPA welcomes into its ever-growing Peace Site network: First Unitarian Church of Essex County; Friends Meeting House of Plainfield and Rahway; and the Hudson County Coalition for Peace and Justice. We also thank the Skylands Unitarian Fellowship for inviting us to speak at a morning service.