

◆ The New Jersey Peacemaker ◆

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Founded 1957, 47 Years of Citizen Action

Summer-Fall 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.

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ANNUAL DINNER EMPHASIZES VOTING RIGHTS

Our 47th Annual Dinner on April 25 drew more than 300 people to hear investigative reporter Greg Palast. The large turnout was especially gratifying because the dinner had to compete with the March for Women's Lives that same day in Washington, D.C.

Palast, an investigative reporter whose groundbreaking stories appear on the BBC and newspapers around the world, but are routinely ignored by U.S. media, was there to kick off the tour for his reissued bestseller, "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy." It details how Florida robbed over 90,000 people, mainly African-Americans and Democrats, of their right to vote in the 2000 election by removing them from the voter lists. Their names have still not been restored.

The book has been updated to address concerns about fair voting and vote counting in the upcoming presidential election. Not surprisingly, the NAACP is co-sponsoring Palast's book tour.

Palast discussed how the advent of electronic voting

machines creates the possibility of undetectable vote fraud but also described how older technologies were manipulated to disenfranchise 2 million Americans in 2000, nearly half black, through "spoiled" ballots.

Palast's talk was enlivened with jabs at Bush's Top Gun flight suited strut and his linguistic howlers like "subliminal" and "misunderestimate." But he concluded on a serious note. His advice for this fall was "keep your eyes on the prize," stay informed, get the word word out to others and "raise hell!"

Mary Bell presented Palast with the Dorothy Eldridge Peacemaker Award.

NJPA's long-time ally, the New Jersey affiliate of the ACLU, was also honored, particularly for its efforts in defending civil liberties in the post-Sept. 11 world. ACLU-NJ Legal Director Ed Barocas accepted the Sylvia and



Greg Palast

Oscar Ackelsberg Peace Award from Board member Howard Lipoff.

NJPA's Peace Action Person of the Year was board member Anna Nelson. Fellow board member Madeline Vricella presented the honor to recognize Anna's great contributions in many areas, especially as co-chair of the Peace Education Committee.

A highlight of this year's event was the display of the Iraq War memorial commemorating the hundreds of U.S. soldiers and thousands of Iraqis who have died because of the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

SAVE THE DATE!—Nov. 13, 2004

NJPA Annual Soup Lunch

with

FRANCES FOX PIVEN

**Rep. Barbara Lee, Rep. Donald Payne
& Professor Henry Frundt**

at Columbia H.S., Maplewood