

# ◆ The New Jersey Peacemaker ◆

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Winter 2002-2003

**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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## *Parenti Links Opposition to Iraq War with Tradition of Democratic Dissent at Soup Lunch Talk*

“Democracy is not about trust. It’s about distrust. It’s about accountability.”

Those words were spoken by author and political analyst Michael Parenti in a talk on “Militarism and Democracy” at NJPA’s annual soup lunch on Nov. 16. An overflow crowd of 350 showed up to hear him, undaunted by the rain and the first-time venue of St. Catherine of Siena Church in Cedar Grove.

Dr. Parenti traced the development of democracy from ancient Greece through the U.S. labor movement of the 19th century to today’s movement against war on Iraq. Though democracy and capitalism are often lumped together, he distinguished the two, explaining they are often at odds, with capitalist interests often trampling freedom at home and overseas to further its agenda. “The people who own most of the world really do not like democracy; they put up with it, but it cuts into profits,” said Parenti.

Democracy must be an ongoing struggle, he said.

Though the Bush war agenda deserves condemnation, it is part of a consistent pattern, he said. He rattled off a list of countries at the receiving end of U.S. aggression — Panama, Grenada, Angola, Mozambique, Indonesia, Yugoslavia, etc. “There’s no rogue state, no communist country that has a record of murder and aggression and lawlessness and military destruction of life and property the way the U.S. leaders have presented us,” he said. “They will go after any country that tries to work outside of this global system of free market financial capital accumulation,” he said, giving the examples of Christian socialist Nicaragua; left populist Chile under Allende; parliamentary left-reformist Jamaica under Michael Manley; Greece under Papandreu; the right-wing military government of Iraq; and the Marxist-Leninist states of Cuba and North Korea.

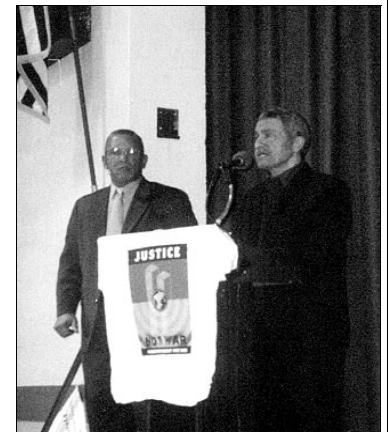
Dr. Parenti explained the 1991 Gulf War as a response to Saddam Hussein’s nationalization of the country’s oil fields, which the U.S. tolerated only so

long as the Cold War lasted, allowing economic development as a counterforce to communism.

Bush II’s present push for war with Iraq is “part of the biggest oil grab in the history of humanity” but is also meant to force Iraq into line with “free market, untrammled, deregulated privatized capitalism,” said Parenti.

“War has been very good to George W. Bush,” he added. Bush has exploited to his domestic political advantage the way American skepticism about politicians tends to evaporate when that politician “wraps himself around the flag and points to some external danger. Then, with almost childlike trust, they rally round the flag which is  
cont’d on p. 2

NJPA Board member Ted Carrington and Dr. Michael Parenti



## Emergency Demonstrations

If despite our best efforts, Bush launches his preemptive war against Iraq, we need to be out in the streets as soon as possible to protest. The Justice Not War Coalition has devised the following plan:

**If war begins between Sunday and Thursday:**  
We will commence our demonstration at 5:30 p.m. the following day outside Sen. Corzine's office in Newark.

**If war begins on a Friday or Saturday:**  
We will congregate outside Sen. Corzine's office at noon the next day since it will be a weekend.

Sen. Corzine's office is located at 1 Gateway Plaza. We will meet on the Market Street side, across from Penn Station.

Please keep up to date on the latest plans, vigils and protests by logging on to [www.nowarnj.org](http://www.nowarnj.org) or by calling the NJPA office at 973-744-3263.

## Civil Liberties, cont'd from page 2

Project shared frightening stories about people stopped, detained and harassed by police based solely on their Muslim appearance. His stories were a stern warning that this kind of profiling is dangerous to the freedom of us all.

Speakers urged the audience to educate others about the Patriot Act. One of the biggest problems is that the bill was passed relatively quietly. Many are unaware of it or its most dangerous provisions. In addition, residents of Jersey City and Montclair are considering petitioning their city governments to pass resolutions in defense of the bill of rights, as a method of protecting their residents against the most onerous provisions of the Act.

For more information, please visit: [www.aclu-nj.org](http://www.aclu-nj.org); [www.gif.org/NBORDC](http://www.gif.org/NBORDC); or contact NJPA at 973-744-3263. Co-sponsors of the event included: The "Justice, Not War" Campaign, UNA/USA—Montclair/Essex Chapter, Industrial Union Council, Independent Progressive People's Network, Essex Action Network, Hudson County Coalition for Peace and Justice, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, American Students of African Descent, and Rutgers Acts for Peace and Justice.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Peace Education Committee

The NJPA Peace Education Committee primarily works on organizing teach-ins and forums on peace issues. Recently covered topics include two teach-ins in response to the Sept. 11 attacks, and two forums, one with speakers from Voices in the Wilderness and Peaceful Tomorrows (relatives of victims of the terrorist attacks who are advocating for peace) and one addressing the effects of the U.S. Patriot Act on constitutional rights and civil liberties.

Often the programs are planned in collaboration with other peace groups and organizations, such as the Justice Not War Campaign of NJ Peace Action and Pax Christi.

The committee has also helped provide speakers for other groups, and committee members have on occasion spoken themselves on peace issues. In addition, they have organized video presentations.

Another focus is the Letter to the Editor Campaign which attempts to get more letters on peace issues published in NJ newspapers. Sample letters to the editor are sent out periodically to a list

of letter writers, to submit the letter to their local paper, either as is, or modified in their own words. Letter writers are encouraged to share their own letters to the editor as sample letters for others to use and to save clippings of their published letters.

If you are interested in joining the committee to help plan peace forums/teach-ins and to educate others about peace issues, or if you would like to join on as a letter writer, contact the NJPA office.

### Membership Committee

The NJ Peace Action Membership Committee was formed to follow up on potential members among people who have attended NJPA events, signed petitions, contacted the national office or whom we have met while tabling. Periodically, members of the committee send out letters inviting them to consider joining NJPA. After the mailings, we follow up to determine how many people became members after receiving the invitation letter. We currently need more volunteers to help with letters and follow-up efforts. If you are interested in joining the committee, contact the NJPA office.

## HOW YOU CAN WORK FOR PEACE—Weekly Vigils

**Cranford**, Peace Park (across from movie theater), Saturdays, 6-7 p.m.  
*Contact:* Leigh Davis, 908-272-88487m or fyrekat@msn.com

**Leonia**, Gazebo on Broad Ave. & Woodland Place, Sundays, 4:30-5 p.m., *Contact:* ldc@operamail.com

**Montclair**, corner of Church St. & Bloomfield Ave., Fridays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
*Contact:* Joanne Ceraso, 973-746-9576 or ceraso@andromeda.rutgers.com

**Morristown**, Morristown Green, Fridays, 6 p.m., *Contact:* Susan Berkowits, 973-334-3826,  
 susan@allpeoplesday.com

**New Brunswick**, Monument Square, Sundays, 12:30-1:30 p.m., *Contact:* Laura and Robin, landr100@hotmail.com

**Newton**, Newton Square, Friday, 6-7 p.m., *Contact:* Litsa Binder at evangeline.binderworldnet.att.net

**Plainfield**, Friends Meeting House, 255 Watchung Ave., Saturday, Noon to 1 p.m.  
*Contact:* Sylvia Zisman, 973-376-5629 or earthhelp@aol.com

Many other towns also have vigils. Check [www.nowarnj.org](http://www.nowarnj.org) or call NJPA office, 973-744-3263.

### Sponsor a New Organizer for Peace

Help NJ Peace Action expand our activism for peace. We need to raise \$4,500 to hire a part-time organizer on a permanent basis in the Montclair office. This organizer will:

- Cover the office when the director is away, allowing Madelyn to increase our public profile.
- Help build local chapters, for a larger organization
- Help local groups prepare and organize educational and political events, for a more powerful outreach
- Campaign for changes in public policy, for a more peaceful society.

*Help NJ Peace Action acquire the potential to wage peace more effectively.  
 Please, return the coupon below with as large a contribution as you can comfortably make.*



Dear Friends and Members,

In the face of a Bush administration seemingly determined to push us to the brink of destruction with plans for preemptive, endless war, nuclear first strikes and expanding the nuclear arsenal with new weapons like the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, we must persevere in our work for peace. Please help us by giving generously.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to make a special contribution to help NJ Peace Action hire an organizer . Enclosed is  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$75    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_\_\_ \$10    other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not yet a member and would like to join. Enclosed is my check for:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$35    Regular dues    \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 52    A dollar a week for Peace    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    Supporter  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$250    Sponsor    \_\_\_\_\_ \$500    Patron    \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000    Benefactor

\_\_\_\_\_ Please add me to the new e-mail legislative action alert. My E-mail address is \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (Or send us your e-mail address by e-mail to [njsane@igc.org](mailto:njsane@igc.org))

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Profit Org.  
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 PAID  
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 Montclair, NJ

New Jersey  
 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 . . .*

"I die with the conviction, held since 1968 and Catonsville, that nuclear weapons are the scourge of the earth; to mine for them, manufacture them, deploy them, use them, is a curse against God, the human family, and the earth itself."

*Philip Berrigan (written shortly before his death)*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Sat., Jan. 18 SAY "NO" TO WAR ON IRAQ—National Demonstration, NJPA buses leaving from Montclair Fore info re buses, including other locations, about demo and about anti-war efforts, call NJPA @ 973-744-3263 or log on to [www.nowarnj.org](http://www.nowarnj.org)
- Mon., Jan. 20 Martin Luther King Day Events  
 Newark— Black Telephone Workers Rally & Demo, e-mail: [blacktel4justice@aol.com](mailto:blacktel4justice@aol.com)  
 7:30 p.m. Teaneck—Bergen MLK Committee—"Nonviolence in a Violent Time," St. Anastasia Ch.
- Thurs., Jan. 23 Video Screening—"Hidden Wars of Desert Storm" at Englewood Library  
 8 p.m. Sponsored by Bergen Action Network & Englewood-Tenafly Committee  
[info@bergenaction.net](mailto:info@bergenaction.net) OR 201-378-7377
- Sat., Sun. Writers & Activists in Support of Civil Rights—Rutgers-Newark, Paul Robeson Campus Center  
 Jan. 25-26 Plenaries and round table discussions re attack on civil rights, endless war, etc.  
 9 a.m. For info, call Jeannette Gabriel, 609-406-7857 or [www.nj.homestead.com/whatsup.html](http://www.nj.homestead.com/whatsup.html)
- Sat., Jan. 25 Video Screening—"Hidden Wars of Desert Storm," Hillsboro, 2 p.m. contact: [bwitanek@igc.org](mailto:bwitanek@igc.org)
- Tues., Jan. 28 Bush's State of Union Address & NJPA Response—Montclair Unitarian Ch.  
 8 p.m. Call NJPA @ 973-744-326
- Fri., Jan. 31 Keep the Military Out of Our Schools—Hackensack Recruiters Office, 20-21 Banta Place  
 5 p.m. Sponsored by Bergen Action Network, [info@bergenaction.net](mailto:info@bergenaction.net) or 201-378-7377
- Wed., Feb. 5 Rutgers Univ-Newark, Film & Panel: "Another Brother: Life of Clarence Fitch," 6:30 p.m.
- Tues., Feb. 25 Fr. Roy Bourgeois, founder of School of Americas Watch, St. Peter Claver Ch., Montclair, 8:15 p.m.
- March 8 International Women's Day, Justice Not War Coalition Open Mtg & Forum, TBA

## Forum Focused on Civil Liberties

On Oct. 24, NJ Peace Action, the ACLU and the People's Organization for Progress organized a program called "The Constitution in Crisis: One Year After the U.S.A. Patriot Act" at Essex County College. About 80 people showed up to learn more about this law, enacted in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, that gave sweeping new powers to domestic law enforcement and international intelligence agencies while eliminating many legal safeguards that protect against overzealous law enforcement.

Deborah Jacobs, executive director of the ACLU-NJ, questioned whether lawmakers gave enough thought to the legislation which was passed in haste, with limited debate, under pressure from the Bush administration in an apparent effort to take advantage of the legitimate fears of the U.S. population to curtail civil liberties.

People's Organization for Progress chairman Larry Hamm spoke eloquently about the African-American community's experience with racial profiling and POP's efforts to oppose profiling and police brutality. He referred to the FBI's domestic COINTELPRO surveillance program, used against progressive groups, and its impact on organizing the African-American community. He left no doubt that the African-American community will not watch passively as their rights and the rights of all Americans are increasingly attacked.

Rutgers Professor Emeritus Arthur Kinoy, Board Co-Chair of the Center for Constitutional Rights and an attorney working with many immigrant detainees since 9-11, read excerpts from [Silencing Political Dissent: How Post-Sept. 11 Anti-Terrorism Measures Threaten Our Civil Liberties](#), a book by Nancy Chang which details some of the most threatening provisions of the Patriot Act, which allow the government to spy on Internet use and to search homes, phones and computers without warrants.

Sohail Mohammed of the Human Rights Education & Law cont'd on p. 4

## From Conversations with the Hibakusha During their August 9, 2002 visit

By Nancy Jo Taiani

Koji told us that he had been a child of nine and was in school, about four kilometers from ground zero in Hiroshima when he saw the flash of light and felt a blast of wind. He was knocked out but made his way home over rubble when he awoke. Then he told us that his mother decided to take him away from the horror — to her family in Nagasaki.

Adel, Joe, Ann and I audibly sucked in air.

Koji went on to tell us that they were saved only because the train they were on was bombed. Otherwise they would have arrived at ground zero in Nagasaki in time for that blast.

I wiped tears away with my napkin at the thought of what that nine-year old, now a man of sixty-six, had witnessed.

## SAVE THE DATE!!!

Sunday, May 4, 2003  
NJPA's 46th Annual Dinner  
with

**SCOTT RITTER**  
*former head UN arms inspector  
now a voice against war with Iraq*

## Soup Event, cont'd

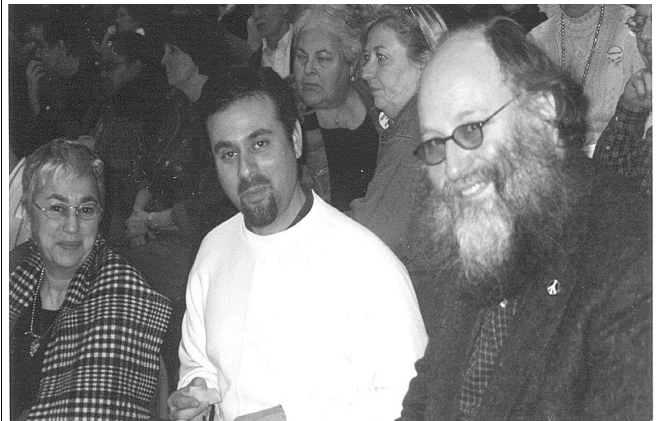
wrapped around the president," he said.

Parenti closed with a rousing exhortation to continued action. "Let's remind them that we have not been taken in. We're going to keep dissenting loud and hard and clear."

Other highlights of the event included the presentation of awards.

NJPA board member Ted Carrington presented Dr. Parenti with the Lou Kousin Award.

Board member Mary Gallagher presented the Hope Shapiro Bread and Roses Award to long-time NJPA member Bennet Zurofsky. Zurofsky, a lawyer who specializes in representing workers, helped obtain the release of a Syrian man detained in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks. He was part of a legal team that won a court order against secret immigration court hearings. That ruling was reversed by an appeals court and the case is still pending.



Patty and Nat Bender with Bennet Zurofsky .

## Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

With the White House seemingly intent on starting an unprovoked war against Iraq, these have been distressing but exhilarating times for New Jersey Peace Action as we have joined with other people of conscience to voice our opposition. We have played a key role in the formation and activities of the NJ Coalition Against War With Iraq, with 37 other groups, including allies old and new such as the Coalition for Peace Action, Peoples' Organization for Progress, the Green Party and Pax Christi.

We worked together to coordinate New Jersey's participation in the national Oct. 26 and Jan. 18 anti-war demonstrations in D.C. and the Dec. 7 Peace Train rally and march in Newark. NJPA filled six buses to D.C. in October and another four in January to join with others from throughout the U.S. to declare our opposition.

The Peace Train rally drew about 300 people who rode in on trains (as well as buses and cars) from as far as Newton and Trenton despite freezing temperatures and snow underfoot. Separate demonstrations in the train-stop towns culminated before Newark's City Hall where an array of speakers including veterans and students, spoke about why and how we must resist such an unjust war. We pledged aloud that we would work ceaselessly against the war. We also got to sing along with the Solidarity Singers. We followed up with Eve of Christmas/Eve of War vigils to highlight the stark contrast between the warmth and fellowship we celebrate during the holiday season and the death and destruction the U.S. is taking steps to inflict upon the innocent civilians of Iraq.

In the midst of these anti-war efforts, we also held our annual Winter Event. On Nov. 16, 350 people shared soup and then were motivated afresh by the words of guest speaker Dr. Michael Parenti. It was a memorable day.

It is good to be together during these very hard times, because the media hype for war makes us feel alone. We have seen with our own eyes what the media is not telling us: People do not want this war. To stop it, we must continue to write letters to the editor, demonstrate, leaflet, vigil, and make noise, because that is the only way our fellow citizens are going to hear us. There are many things that you can do, today, to spread the word, to make us, the peacemakers, more visible. If you are not yet a member, please see our membership coupon.

I look forward to seeing some of you at a peace rally, one of the vigils, our next teach-in, to be announced; on a lobby trip locally, or in the halls of congress, and at our dinner on May 4th, with speaker Scott Ritter, the former UN arms inspector. Please contact the office for more information about any of these events and go to [www.noiraqwar.org](http://www.noiraqwar.org) to keep track of the many efforts underway in NJ to oppose this especially unjust war.

Wishing you all a healthy and productive new year,

*Peggy Monges*

### IN MEMORIAM

**Paul Wellstone**

**Philip Berrigan**

*Two passionate voices  
for peace and justice  
We mourn their passing and vow  
to continue their struggle.*

### COLLEEN NOVOSIELSKI

*In Memoriam*

NJ Peace Action remembers our good friend and long-time member, Colleen Novosielski. Her death came much too soon, this past October.

We will never forget Colleen's steady participation in teach-ins, vigils and demonstrations or her ground-breaking work in developing and presenting programs on non-violent conflict resolution.

We thank her husband Gary for his on-going commitment to NJ Peace Action. We also thank Colleen's many friends for their kind contributions to NJ Peace Action in memory of a woman whose fighting spirit lives on.