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of Eastern Maine
Newsletter



Wall Street, militarism, environmental disaster and Us

by Ilze Petersons, program coordinator, Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine

As British Petroleum oil gushes into the Gulf of Mexico, we wonder what the long-term impact will be on the environment, on the people of the region, and on all of us. At the same time, the war in Afghanistan consumes billions more of the dollars needed to deal with problems here at home. And it seems unlikely that Wall Street will be regulated in any meaningful way to prevent future financial meltdowns and the drain of our tax dollars for bailouts of billionaires. The need for a powerful, diverse movement presenting analysis and alternatives has never been clearer.

At the HOPE Festival each year we see the diversity of organizations doing important work in our region on issues of the environment, peace, human rights, women, labor, health care, and cooperative and nonviolent alternatives. As we come together to celebrate our connections to the Earth and each other, we can feel the power and energy of our unified efforts.

But Tom Hayden says progressives fail to make the connections between Wall Street, war, and environmental destruction and their impact on all our concerns. Hayden points out that we need to be educating ourselves and our communities about the links between these man-made catastrophes, noting the unholy alliance of BP, Goldman Sachs and Halliburton. (See his article "One Case Against BP, Wall Street and War" at www.tomhayden.com.)

The Bring Our War \$\$ Home statewide campaign has done a fine job of making some of the connections and supporting Representatives Michaud and Pingree in calling for an end to funding the war in Afghanistan. Recently we have learned how the \$33 billion supplemental funding for Afghanistan is being combined with disaster relief efforts and programs for veterans, making it difficult for lawmakers to oppose such funding. This summer we may all have opportunities to continue to educate ourselves about the costs of war to our communities and to challenge our senators to oppose continued funding of the war.

Consider writing a letter to the editor or an op-ed column and calling Senators Snowe and Collins, then letting us know what you do so that we can be inspired by each other's efforts. Call (942-9343) or email (info@peacectr.org) if you would like to be involved in regional planning for other actions.

On June 6 join us for a tribute to Howard Zinn with a showing of the documentary "You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train" and reflect on his life and legacy to help us continue to build the movement for a nonviolent and sustainable future.



Native Americans object to nicknames

by Christina Diebold

Stereotyping Native Americans as fierce and warlike has led to the adoption of nicknames such as Braves, Apaches, Warriors, Chiefs and Indians by high school athletic teams. "They show us as savages, but that's not what native people are about," said Rick Phillips-Doyle, Passamaquoddy tribal governor at Pleasant Point, during a symposium on the use of such mascots and logos. "Passamaquoddies and most others are peaceful, not out to scalp people."

In fact, scalping may have gone the other way. In one of the more shocking moments at the symposium, James Francis, tribal historian for the Penobscot Nation, said a proclamation issued in 1755 by the lieutenant governor of Massachusetts offered a bounty for Penobscot scalps, including the scalps of women and children. "That's where the Redskins term comes from," he said.

Michelle Bernard, a Lakota Sioux who went to Sanford High School, described how she tried to fit in by dressing up as a Sanford Redskin, only to feel guilty later for betraying her heritage. "No culture – no heritage – should be a mascot," she said. Bernard now teaches philosophy at Husson University and NESCOM.

Tanya Francis, a Mohawk from the Iroquois Confederation, underwent a similar quest for identity. A graduate student at the University of Maine, getting a master's degree in education, she has researched the use of Native American mascots. Fifty-eight universities and five professional teams have such mascots, she said, "making a mockery of our sacred practices."

The three-hour symposium held May 15 was organized by Ed Rice, author of books on Penobscot athletes Louis Sockalexis and Andrew Sockalexis, and John Dieffenbacher-Krall, executive director of the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission (MITSC). Other participants were Brian Reynolds, tribal administrator of the Houlton Band of Maliseets and representative to MITSC, who said few Mainers are even aware there are tribes living in the state; Mary Nadeau, principal of Nokomis High School, which has retained the nickname Warriors (Nokomis means "my grandmother"); Jim Dill, chair of the Old Town School Board, which voted unanimously about five years ago to drop the name Indians (students have since embraced the nickname Coyotes); Rick Wormwood, sports columnist for the Phoenix; and Steve Solloway, sports writer for the Portland Press Herald.

Wayne Newell of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township seemed to sum up sentiment at the end when he said, "This goes far beyond political correctness. No race should insult another race and call it honoring."

You can find the 1755 proclamation issued by Spencer Phips on the excellent website of the Penobscot Nation. Go to www.penobscotculture.com, then "Learn about our history" and "timeline." If you want to register your views on the exploitation of Native American names, contact your legislators and/or MITSC (which is to meet June 7) at mitsced@roadrunner.com.

Indian scientist questions need for growth

by Christina Diebold, editor

If China and India start consuming resources at the same rate as developed countries in the West, "we will destroy the world." That was the sobering message from Dr. Ashok Jhunjhunwala, a top scientist and economist in India, at the General Assembly held at the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine on May 8. Ashok and his wife, Bhavani, were special guests at the potluck dinner following commencement exercises at the University of Maine, where he received an honorary doctorate.

At the annual meeting, members of the Center's Steering Committee were elected as follows: Kerry Curtis, Al Larson, Jeff Lowell, Janet May, Peter Phillips, Chuck Rodrigues, Anna Sweeney, Mike Howard and Sandy Tardiff. Marj Lawrence, who is stepping down, was recognized for having served on the committee since 2003.



Photo by Ilze Petersons

General Assembly meeting, May 8, 2010

About 60 people filled the Center. Founding member Mary Dolan spoke about the importance of making connections between issues such as war, health care, and poverty. The Center helps make connections by bringing people together at various events – the HOPE Festival, the Martin Luther King commemoration, the Harvest Supper, films, the weekly vigil, WERU broadcasts, email alerts, and participation in the Bring Our War \$\$ Home campaign, she said.

Introduced by Doug Allen, Dr. Jhunjhunwala noted that when he returned to India after graduate work at the



Photo by Ilze Petersons

Dr. Ashok Jhunjhunwala

University of Maine twenty-five years ago, it took eight years for him to get a telephone. Since then India has made giant strides but faces a huge problem with 700 million people in rural areas who still live in poverty. China has a similar problem, he said, "and there is no model of how to

make rural areas reasonably economically sustainable."

He warned that the paradigm of needing to consume more to boost the economy is dangerous, as is the assumption that "science will fix it." When the U.S. economy stopped growing recently, "everything started collapsing," he said, but constant growth is unsustainable: "When we start competing for resources, there will be resource wars. I consider Iraq and Afghanistan as resource wars."

Documentary to highlight Hiroshima Day

by Christina Diebold

Think ahead to Friday, August 6. That is when the Peace & Justice Center will mark the world's first (and so far only) use of the atomic bomb, when the United States ended World War II with an attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

This year the commemoration will feature a documentary film, "The Railroad of Love," about repairing tense relations between Japan and Australia after the war.

The movie will be introduced by Masanobu Ikemiya, a musician who lives in Bar Harbor and Japan who has joined the Peace & Justice Center in several past Hiroshima Day observances. Location to be announced.

Made in 2000, the film has won a number of awards. It tells the story of an Australian Catholic priest, the Rev. Tony Glynn, who went to Japan after the war to help orphans. He came to realize that "tremendous animosity" existed between the two countries, Ikemiya said. During the war, Australian prisoners of war were forced to build a railroad in Malaysia, and many died from the terrible conditions. After the war, Japanese prisoners were taken to Australia and many were executed.

The priest loved both countries and made it his mission to promote forgiveness and healing, as passing hatred from generation to generation is not a good thing, Ikemiya said. The process involved persuading Australians – one by one -- to return to the families of captured Japanese soldiers the samurai swords they had surrendered.

Ikemiya is well known in Maine for his musicianship and peace work. He founded the Arcady Music Society in 1980, with the intention of fostering better understanding between countries by recruiting musicians from around the world – Russia, China, Bulgaria, among others. A pianist, he performs ragtime and classical music in concerts that are mostly out of state.

Veterans for Peace to celebrate 25th anniversary

by Dud Hendrick, Deer Isle

Twenty-five years ago, several Vietnam veterans sat down at a Denny's in Auburn to discuss their anguish over America's militarism. That conversation, initiated by Jerry Genesio, and including Doug Rawlings, well-known in the Maine peace and justice community, gave birth to the first chapter (William Ladd) of what would become Veterans for Peace, a national confederation of over 100 chapters across the country with over 5,000 members. Along with the other Maine chapter (Jim Harney, 2003) we will host the 25th anniversary VFP convention at the Holiday Inn by the Bay in Portland, August 25-29.

Veteran members from across the country will convene to celebrate and to strategize in pursuit of the cornerstone of their mission, "to abolish war as an instrument of foreign policy." Featured events will include the opening ceremony, plenary session(s), workshops, a public meeting, poetry

reading, and a banquet featuring Noel Paul Stookey (of Peter, Paul, and Mary fame) and author Chris Hedges as keynote speaker.

Organizers will be eager to open the doors to friends and supporters in the general public, and as projected veteran attendance permits, more information will be forthcoming.

But mark your calendars now -- the public meeting will be a "must." It's scheduled for 7 p.m. August 26 at the First Parish Meeting House at 425 Congress Street in Portland. Participants will discuss the convention theme, "Lifting the Fog of War," and participants will include Democratic Congressman Bob Filner of California, noted author Terry Tempest Williams, former Maine legislator Michael Brennan, and Wampanoag/Native American author and activist Gkisedtanamoogk, with entertainment by the dynamic women's drumming ensemble Inanna.

Interested friends may wish to advertise in the convention program (vfpnationalconvention.org/programguide.htm). For further information contact Dud Hendrick (dudhe@myfairpoint.net).

Jack was instrumental in re-energizing the Green Party in Hancock County and cared deeply about his hometown of Deer Isle, where he was involved in many volunteer activities.



PICA director moving to NEA job

by Dennis Chinoy

By now many people are aware that after five years of being PICA's director, Jon Falk is leaving his position to accept a job with the National Education Association (NEA). There he will facilitate NEA efforts to resist privatization of the jobs of secretaries, custodians, bus drivers and other school support personnel in school systems across the country. PICA understands that our loss is the gain of many working people throughout the U.S. But yes, we're sad about it.

Jon tells us that his years of work with PICA on trade-related issues, including those of privatization, have helped him bring a very relevant perspective to his new work. Of course, crediting others for what he accomplishes is vintage Jon Falk. His previous experience as a union organizer, computer systems expert, efficient administrator, successful grant writer, and participant for decades in struggles for social and economic justice may also have played a role in the NEA's hiring decision.

Space restrictions don't permit us to catalog all that Jon has enabled PICA to accomplish over the last half-decade. It's been easy to take for granted Jon's capable presence, since his outsized talents and prodigious efforts have for years been obscured by his self-effacing manner. It will be a lot harder to take in stride his absence at PICA's helm.

At least we have the solace that while PICA is losing a great director, it is regaining a committed and long-time volunteer with Jon's continued presence. Thank you, Jon, not only from those of us in PICA but from all in the Bangor area progressive community for all the work you've done, the energy you've helped channel, and the inspiration you've provided these past many years.

Dennis Chinoy is a longtime PICA volunteer.



Green activist Jack Harrington will be missed

Jack Harrington of Deer Isle, a long-time activist in the Green Party, died April 22. At the time of his death he was a candidate for state representative in District 36, which extends from part of Mt. Desert Island to Vinalhaven. A replacement Green candidate has not yet been chosen.

"Jack was a man with a heart of gold and a deep sense of integrity and compassion," said Claire Mortimer, long-time Green activist and dear friend of Jack Harrington. "He dedicated his life to fighting for social justice."

"Over the last three years, I got to know Jack well, and experienced first-hand his commitment to our party, and to peace and justice. We spoke many times about how much fun it was going to be to campaign in the overlapping parts of our district, and what our messages would be. We will miss him tremendously," said Lynne Williams, Green candidate for the state Senate, District 28.

A veteran of the Army and the Navy, Harrington was a member of Veterans for Peace. Because of his extensive military background, he was very effective in doing counter-recruitment work. He was particularly concerned with the plight of disabled and homeless veterans.

PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER FILM SERIES

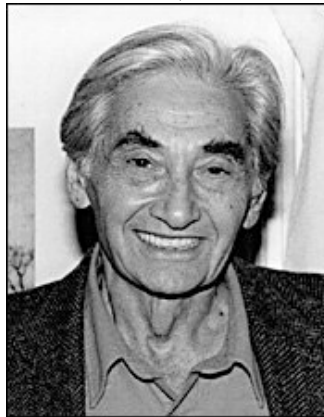
SPRING 2010

7:00 p.m.

A special tribute to Howard Zinn:

“YOU CAN’T BE NEUTRAL ON A MOVING TRAIN”

SUNDAY, JUNE 6



This acclaimed film looks at the amazing life of the renowned historian, activist and author, Howard Zinn. Following his early days as a shipyard labor organizer and bombardier in World War II, Zinn became an academic rebel and leader of civil disobedience in a time of institutionalized racism and war. His influential writings shine light on and bring voice to factory workers, immigrant laborers, African Americans, Native Americans and the working poor.

Featuring rare archival materials and interviews with Zinn and colleagues such as Noam Chomsky, *You Can’t Be Neutral* captures the essence of this extraordinary man who has been a catalyst for progressive change for more than 60 years.

Narrated by Matt Damon. Featuring music by Pearl Jam, Woody Guthrie & Billy Bragg!

PEACE AND JUSTICE CENTER OF EASTERN MAINE

170 PARK STREET, BANGOR

942-9343

Discussion after each film

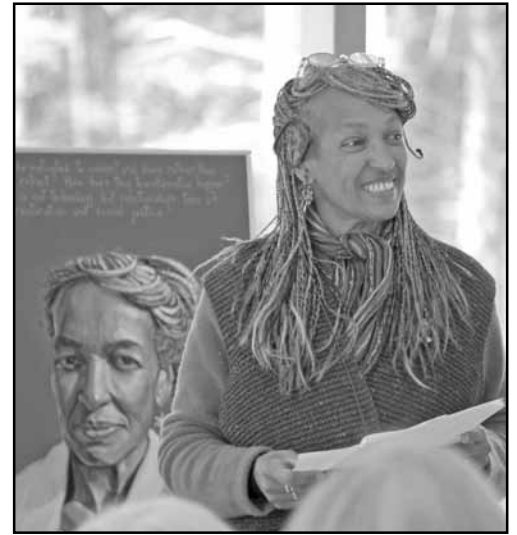
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HOPE FESTIVAL 2010

Photos by Tammy Olson, Daryle Carter, Janet May and Anne Hayes-Grillo





Photos by Tammy Olson and Daryle Carter

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notices

Protest to mark latest Aegis launch June 5

On June 5th Bath Iron Works will “christen” yet another weapon of mass destruction and, again for the 14th year, Maine’s activist community will protest the continued construction of these weapons. We will gather between 8 and 8:15 a.m. in front of BIW’s Administration building, Washington Street, Bath. At 8:30 our group will walk down Washington to the South gate, a half mile easy walk. If you don’t want to walk, meet at the South Gate on Washington Street. The public will be admitted at 9 a.m. The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. We plan to have our closing circle about 10:30 a.m. The ship to be christened is the USS Spruance, DDG 111, the 61st Aegis Destroyer launched or christened, about half at BIW. At \$1 billion each that represents a lot of school lunches, mental health care and social services lost because of inadequate funds. Please join us in Bath and let your presence be felt

Artist, choir plan Veterans for Peace benefit

Artist Rob Shetterly and the Voices for Peace Choir will collaborate on a benefit in support of the 25th anniversary National Veterans for Peace Convention to be held August 25-29 in Portland. The benefit will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, June 12, at the Williston-West Church, 32 Thomas Street, Portland. The concert will present Americans Who Tell the Truth portraits. Howard Zinn, Jim Harney and Pat Humphries will be among those featured, and songs will include “We Are One” and “This Is My Song.” A \$10 donation suggested.

Union Supported Agriculture offers options

This USA means Union Supported Agriculture, a food distribution system in eastern Maine for union members, laid off workers, and others. Shares may already be filled for 2010, but check it out or sign up early for 2011. Share options range from \$200 to \$400 and for 10 or 16 weeks. Costs are lower for those who do work exchange at the farm in North Orland. For more details, contact Laura, Food AND Medicine, 989-5860 or laurab@foodandmedicine.org.

It’s Party Time!

The Peace & Justice Center held its first House Party in Bangor on March 9th. A house party is a gathering of friends and acquaintances for food and socializing, intended to generate support for a cause, in this case the Center. It starts with a host committee that plans the date, place, time and goals of the event, generates a list of participants to invite, and makes initial donations. Planners prepare a menu and a brief program, with time for questions and answers, and plenty of socializing before and after.

We seek volunteers to plan another house party. Please contact Stephen or Ilze at 942-9343, or info@peacectr.org if you would be interested in helping to raise friends and support for the Center in your area.



c a l e n d a r

June 5: "From Greenhouse to Garden" workshop on how to use a greenhouse effectively, 10 a.m.-mid-afternoon, home of Joan McMurray, 33 Webb District Road, Columbia. Maine Solar Energy Association, 733-1095 (evenings).

June 6: Tribute to Howard Zinn film, "You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train," 7 p.m., 170 Park Street, Bangor. Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 942-9343 or info@peacectr.org or www.peacectr.org.

June 14: Gathering in support of Frank Donnelly, war tax resister being sentenced for refusing to pay for war, 8:45 a.m. (then go into court), Federal Courthouse, 202 Harlow Street (formerly post office building), Bangor. Maine War Tax Resistance Resource Center, 525-7776 or rosc@psouth.net.

June 23: "Pete Seeger: The Power of Song" film shown (music for social change) preceded by potluck supper, 5:30 p.m., Free Library, Belfast. Peace and Justice Group of Waldo County, 525-7776.

June 28-30: Restorative School Practices summer institute, Civic Center, Augusta. Register by June 4 at Peace and Reconciliation Studies Program, 581-2609 or barbara.blazej@umit.maine.edu.

June 29-July 6: Round River Rendezvous to end corporate colonization of Maine's natural resources, western Maine woods (see contact info for directions), including skills shares, camping, strategizing, local food. Maine Earth First!, 469-2552 or maine@earth-first.net or <http://maine.earth-first.net>.

July 1: Due date for nominations for 25th annual Maryann Hartman awards. UMaine Women's Studies, 581-1228 or Angela.Hart@umit.maine.edu.

July 2-4: Sixth annual Northeast Permaculture Convergence (gathering of permaculture designers, teachers, learners), MOFGA/Common Ground Education Center, Unity. neconvergence@gmail.com or <http://northeastconvergence.wordpress.com>.

July 4: Brewer to Bangor March in support of Veterans for Peace. All are invited to march behind the banner that says "Supporters of Veterans for Peace." Watch the website and e-mails for details.

July 10: Third annual Penobscot River Revival, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Bangor waterfront. Penobscot Watershed Coalition, www.penobscotriverrivival.blogspot.com.

August 6: Commemoration of Hiroshima Day with documentary "The Railroad of Love," introduced by Masanobu Ikemiya at 7 p.m., location to be announced. Call the Center 942-9343 or visit the website www.peacectr.org for updated information.

August 15: Deadline for September P & J newsletter. Please send submissions for the September issue to Christina Diebold, tcpdiebold@yahoo.com

August 25-29: National Veterans for Peace Convention, Holiday Inn by the Bay, downtown Portland. Maine Veterans for Peace, dudhe@myfairpoint.net or <http://vfpnationalconvention.org>.



In memory, in honor

The Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine is grateful for donations received recently in memory and in honor of loved ones. Your generosity is acknowledged and appreciated.

In memory of Susan Abraham:

Hope Brogunier, Bangor, ME
Ray Fransen, Hampden, ME

In memory of Silas Brogunier:

Michele Brogunier, Madison, WI

This will be the last Newsletter you will receive until the end of August. Please check with the Peace & Justice Center at 942-9343 or go online at www.peacectr.org to keep up with events.

Peace vigils

For additions and cancellations:
cpdiebold@yahoo.com.

Bangor: Tuesdays, 5-5:30 p.m., Federal Building, Harlow Street. Call Peace & Justice Center, 942-9343.

Belfast: Sundays, noon to 1 p.m., corner of High and Main streets. Cathy Mink, 338-4920.

Blue Hill: Sundays, noon, Blue Hill bridge. Judy and Peter Robbins, 326-4405.

Deer Isle: Mondays, 4-4:30 pm., across from Deer Isle-Stonington High School, in front of ball field. Dud Hendrick, 348-2511.

Eastport: Saturdays, 11 a.m. to noon, Eastport Post Office, David Gholson, 853-2633.

Ellsworth: Sundays, noon, Union River bridge downtown. Russell Wray, 422-8273.

Houlton: Fridays, noon-12:30, silent vigil at the Peace Pole in Monument Park. Marilyn Roper, 532-3797.

Lubec: Saturdays, 11 a.m. to noon, Triangle at Flat Iron Corner, opposite IGA. Dick Hoyt, 733-2068.

Presque Isle: Sundays, noon to 1 p.m., bridge over Aroostook River on Route 1. Steve Demaio, 455-8158.

Skowhegan: Sundays, noon to 1 p.m., Margaret Chase Smith Bridge. Mark Roman, 643-2356.

Southwest Harbor: Saturdays, 11 a.m. to noon, Pemetic School Green, Main Street. Westside Peace Group. Kate Henry, 244-3702.

Waterville: Sundays, noon-1 p.m., Messalonskee Bridge on Kennedy Memorial Drive (by CVS). Bobby Hayes, 873-0878.



PEACE & JUSTICE CENTER *Newsletter*

is published 10 times a year by the **Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine**. Deadlines for articles and calendar items are due the 15th of the preceding month. Contributions, comments, and feedback are encouraged.

Before submitting material, please check with the editor for space availability, length of the article, and final deadlines.

Opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the staff, board, committees or membership of the Peace & Justice Center.

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This newsletter is available and can be downloaded as a pdf file from our website, www.peacectr.org. If you would like to be notified by email when the newsletter is online, send a message to - officemanager@peacectr.org. State whether you wish to receive the newsletter through the mail in addition to viewing on the web.

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www.peacectr.org

Mission Statement

...to support as well as link individuals and groups concerned with peace, social justice, and environmental issues. Center services promote cooperation, expand awareness, explore connections, and encourage community involvement in working toward a peaceful and just society. The Center also develops programs in response to those community concerns not being adequately addressed by existing social change organizations.

Peace & Justice Center
of Eastern Maine / ROSC
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of Eastern Maine
Newsletter

June 2010



Yes! I would like to support the work of the Peace & Justice Center of Eastern Maine. Here's my donation.

The Center is a non-profit membership organization registered in the state of Maine, but donations are not tax-exempt. If you would like to make a tax-exempt donation, please make your check payable to ROSC (Resources for Organizing and Social Change), and write "P&J" in the memo line.

I have enclosed my check for \$35 ___ \$60 ___
\$100 ___ other \$ ___

This donation is in memory of _____
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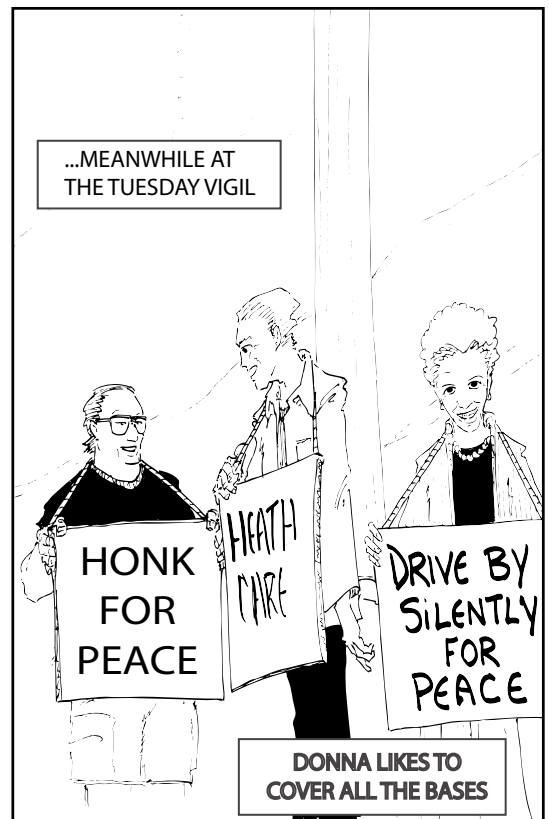
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Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

If you prefer, you can make a donation online at our Website - www.peacectr.org. Donations made online are automatically paid through ROSC and are tax deductible.



Cartoon by Darrell Geisler