

# RPEC NEWS

The newsletter of the Richmond Peace Education Center

September-October 2008

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## *Profiles in Peacemaking*

### **Betsy Brinson, Peacemaker of the Year**

by Wendy Bauers Northup



Betsy Brinson

Meeting to talk with Betsy Brinson is a fascinating experience, because she is interested and involved in so many different things. By the time you catch up on just what she's been doing the past few months, you might think you have talked about lifetime pursuits. That's because Betsy, RPEC's Peacemaker of the Year, has spent a lifetime working on behalf of peace and justice in a great variety of ways.

Betsy grew up in the military in the South, and on the army bases experienced well-integrated schools and living conditions. But all she had to do was walk off the base to see that things elsewhere in the world around her were quite different. These instincts were crystallized when she went to college in Greensboro, NC in the 60's and got involved in the student sit-ins and the civil rights movement.

After working for the ACLU in North Carolina since 1970, in 1974 Betsy moved to Richmond to become the Executive Director of the ACLU here, and continued her journey in the struggle for human rights and civil liberties. Before long, she had become the director for the ACLU's Southern Regional Women's Rights Project, covering 13 states and working with employment issues for blue collar women in non-traditional jobs. Her interest in women and their needs and civil rights became a major theme in her life.

When Betsy returned to graduate school to begin work on her PhD in American History and Women's Studies, she went to work for the YWCA and got involved in issues of domestic violence through the women the Y sheltered. After she graduated, she moved to New York to work for the National YWCA there, and volunteered one day a week at Sloan Kettering working with an AIDS patient. About this time, the YWCA, which was running childcare centers for children in a number of cities, found it had a child who was HIV positive and realized that current policies didn't quite fit this new world. Once again, Betsy stepped up to the plate. Her experiences as a volunteer working with AIDS patients gave her the experience she needed to take on another human rights issue, and she worked with the National YWCA to develop education and training programs for YWCA programs. Back in the days when she was organizing for women in non-traditional jobs, she could hardly have guessed what a new world would bring in terms of issues facing women and children of all races. A volunteer job in New York led to a whole new step in Betsy's journey seeking justice for all.

**RPEC Web  
Page:  
[http://www.  
rpec.org](http://www.rpec.org)**



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Nov. 10**

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Deadline for the next issue is Nov. 10 Contact Bill Gerow at mbgerow@comcast.net.

Remembering Linda Heacock Reflections by Wendy and Adria

On Friday, September 12, Linda Heacock took leave of this world surrounded by her family and community members. As many of you know, she fought a long valiant battle with cancer for the past year. Linda has been a long time member of the Peace Center, a former Board chair, and active member of the Alternatives to Violence (AVP) team.

She first traveled to Kenya in 2005 to work with Kenyan Quakers in the Great Lakes region teaching AVP to a core group of Kenyan young adults to aid tribal reconciliation and the prevention of domestic violence. When she returned, she coordinated the RPEC AVP Program. Many RPEC and community members had the good fortune to take part in her workshops.



Linda Heacock in Kenya

On her last trip to Kenya in 2007, she was diagnosed with Burkett's lymphoma, a cancer usually found only in parts of Central Africa. During her illness, as during the rest of her life, Linda's spirituality was evident. As she faced her final illness, she clearly knew she was going to rest in the Spirit and her strength and peace was the final gift she gave to those around her.

She will be sorely missed, though her example will live on as a motivator for those continuing to struggle to bring non-violence into a violent world. — Wendy Northup

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Our dear friend and partner Linda Heacock passed away last week. Linda led RPEC's Alternatives to Violence Project. Under her guidance, RPEC trained a new group of AVP facilitators and began working again with inmates in the Virginia Correctional Center for Women in Goochland. We also began collaborating with other programs in the city that aid men and women transitioning out of prison and back into the community.

Linda, a Quaker and a member of Richmond Friends Meeting, traveled to Kenya three times in recent years to work with the African Great Lakes Initiative, which promotes peace activities in the Great Lakes region of Africa. Upon returning from her 2005 trip, she wrote: "Among the most meaningful experiences I had while in Kenya was witnessing the profound impact of AVP on its participants. I believe the AVP training has been so universally effective because of its concept of 'Transforming Power,' which is the core philosophy of AVP. To me Transforming Power is synonymous with the Quaker 'Inner Light,' the belief that there is 'that of God' in every human being." She wrote that her life would be forever changed from her experiences in Kenya.

All of our lives will be forever changed from knowing Linda. We continue to feel her wisdom and peaceful spirit guiding us forward.— Adria Scharf

# Profiles in Peacemaking

(Continued from page 1)

Planning to return to Richmond in 1988, she was asked to get in on the ground floor of a new organization: Richmond Aids Ministry (RAM), an interfaith organization which was just getting started and hoped to open homes for AIDS patients to spend their final days in dignity and in a homelike environment. Medicines weren't as good as they are now and people didn't live very long once HIV became full-blown AIDS. To prepare for this task, she went to Broadmead, a Quaker life-care community and to another home run by Bon Secours outside Baltimore; they graciously let her spend a year learning how to become a nursing home administrator. Betsy needed all her peacemaking and fundraising skills as RAM prepared to open a residential facility but also to train volunteers to help AIDS patients in their own homes. RAM was ultimately successful and a number of AIDS patients died with love and dignity at home.

Because so few doctors would then care for people with AIDS, Betsy went next to the VCU School of Medicine to recruit and train more primary care doctors. When husband Gordon Davies went to teach at Columbia University, Betsy took a semester leave from VCU to enroll in a certificate program in conflict resolution there. Once again she was developing new skills in the pursuit of justice. Their lives then took them to Kentucky where Betsy once again got involved with ACLU and AIDS programs. But in Kentucky she pursued a path that she had

been developing since graduate school: doing oral history. She worked with a number of others through the Kentucky Historical Society to collect stories of those people in Kentucky who had been involved in the civil rights movement—learning first-hand and documenting what it meant to live in the south in the days before civil rights and what sacrifices these people had made to usher in a new era. The Project collected over 200 oral history interviews, established three research websites, developed K-12 classroom lesson plans, and produced the documentary film *Living the Story*. The project in 2003 received the highest award given by the American Association of State and Local History. In 2004 the National Oral History Association recognized the project with its highest award of excellence. The film has been screened internationally. Betsy had found a way to do what she loved and share it for posterity.

After a one-year sojourn in New Zealand, Betsy and Gordon once again settled in Richmond and Betsy began to get involved in oral history projects in a variety of venues. She is collecting oral histories of Richmond people involved in peace and justice work here in Richmond and being archived at VCU Special Collections: Zelda Nordlinger, a feminist activist before she died and more recently Ed Peebles, who is well-known in Richmond circles for his work in human rights. Collecting these stories and sharing the lives of these important people sustains and nourishes Betsy.

Another project that Betsy became involved in when she returned to Richmond is Quaker House, a 40 year old anti-war, military counseling organization in Fayetteville/Fort Bragg, NC. Betsy serves on the Board and headed up the recent capital campaign. As part of the National G. I. Rights Hotline, Quaker House answered over 11,000 calls last year from active duty soldiers who want to get out of the military and need to know their rights. This work has also involved Betsy's oral history skills. She has been working with two anthropologists from Brown University to collect the stories of 35 active duty Iraq soldiers who have grown to oppose the war. Some of these young men and women are still on active duty, having served multiple tours, but have realized that our involvement is wrong; some have gone AWOL and fled to Canada, where their appeals have expired and they will soon be forced to return to the United States where they will face prison sentences charges. A book from this project will be published soon.

Betsy is retired now and so has more time to spend volunteering with RPEC. Her roots go deep in the peace and justice community in Richmond, as she early on met Phyllis Conklin and Marii Hasegawa, two remarkable women who started the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Chapter in Richmond. They nourished and taught her, as they did so many of us active in the peace community in Richmond for a long

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# RPEC Happenings

## Recent Events

### Summer Peace Protests

This summer RPEC was involved in three peace protests. On July 15, we helped the Church of the Brethren Peace Witness organize a protest at the site of the church's annual national meeting at the convention center. The protest, "End the Occupation of Iraq, Say No to War Against Iran," was held in front of city hall. It called for an end to the violence of all current wars and to focus on the need for engagement and mediation with Iran. One speaker was a member of Christian Peace Witness who had spent time in Iraq during the occupation. Other, local, speakers included Adria Scharf, Director of the Richmond Peace Education Center, Tyla Matteson, who was part of last year's People's Delegation to Iran, Ana Edwards of the Defenders for Freedom Justice and Equality, and Elizabeth Smith of Richmond Friends Meeting. There were about 300 people in attendance, mostly from the Church of

the Brethren. At one point, anyone in attendance who had been a conscientious objector in any war was asked to raise his hand. About 10 men raised their hands, representing objectors to a number of different wars beginning with World War II.

RPEC also supported a rally outside the Richmond Times-Dispatch on July 26th. The purpose was to voice opposition to inflammatory media coverage of the Iran threat. The rally was initiated by RVA4Peace and was supported by the Defenders for Freedom, Justice & Equality and the Richmond Peace Education Center. RPEC also co-sponsored a regional anti-war rally in Virginia Beach: "Stop The Next War Now! No War on Iran! Money for Human Needs, Not War!" This was initiated by the Hampton Roads Peace and Justice Coalition and local members of the Veterans for Peace.

### RYPN Night Held September 17

On September 17, teens from the

Richmond Metro area came to the Berryman center for an evening of peaceful fun, games and self-expression to kick off RYPN's 2008-2009 program year. The evening featured drumming led by Ram Bhagat, group games, snacks and an introduction to upcoming RYPN programs. Participants also had the opportunity to meet other kids who care about making central Virginia a more peaceful place.

### New Youth Trainers Workshop

RYPN's team of youth trainers is growing. On Saturday and Sunday, September 27-28, 2008, the Richmond Youth Peace Project held a workshop at the Berryman Center for about 20 teens interested in becoming conflict resolution trainers. The workshop was led by Ram Bhagat, Santa Sorenson and Paul Fleisher. Several of the young people who have previously worked with the youth training team also participated in

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## *Profiles in Peacemaking*

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time. When I asked Betsy about the books she returns to for inspiration, she told me: *Born for Liberty: A History of Women in America* by Sara Evans, to remind me of women's determination and social advocacy throughout American history; The poetry of Adrienne Rich and Mary Oliver and *The Weight Watchers Point Guide*, for obvious reasons. Betsy now stands

in a long line of courageous women who have devoted themselves to bringing peace into our world. She was a major player in organizing the Eyes Wide Open Project, which displayed the boots of those who had died in Iraq and has been viewed by more people than any other RPEC program; she worked on the Truth in Recruitment Project aimed at giving the real story to high school students interested in enlisting. And more recently she helped to organize the

racial awareness oral history project that resulted from the 2007 Racial Dialogue Program. But she also does the less glamorous work of helping with fundraising and volunteering at events; and for the third year in a row, she will once again donate two hours of oral history collection to the Peace Center Auction. The Richmond Peace Education Center is very proud to count her a member and is delighted to be able to give her this award: Peacemaker of the Year.

# RPEC Happenings

the second day of the session.

The workshop introduced participants to a variety of conflict resolution techniques to use in their own lives and to share with other young people. Participants also received training in how to plan and present sessions for school and youth groups. Lunch and training materials will be provided.

Word of this RYPP program is spreading in the community. This year, for the first time, we received many more applicants than we could accommodate. If funding becomes available, we hope to offer an additional training for those teens who are currently on our waiting list.

RYPP teen trainers are now available to lead conflict resolution workshops—under experienced adult supervision—for youth groups, community centers, schools or congregations. To schedule one or a series of workshops, contact the center at 232-1002 or email [rpec@rpec.org](mailto:rpec@rpec.org).

## Upcoming Events

### **Don't Miss Out on Local Events! Join the RPEC email list.**

How do you find out about important peace and justice events in the Richmond area? If you just read this newsletter, you're missing a lot! Many events are scheduled after we go to press. The best way to keep track of up-to-the-minute happenings is to join the Center's email list. You'll receive several emails each week letting

you know about all the latest events.

To sign up, simply send a blank email to [rpec-subscribe@lists.riseup.net](mailto:rpec-subscribe@lists.riseup.net). If you need assistance, please contact the RPEC office at 232-1002.

### **Anger Management**

On Monday, October 6, Wendy Bauers Northup will lead a 3-hour workshop on "Emotion Regulation" (which is commonly called Anger Management) from 6 to 9 p.m., at the Berryman Center. This training will deepen facilitators' understanding of emotion regulation as a component of violence prevention and conflict resolution. To register, contact 232-1002 or e-mail [rpec@rpec.org](mailto:rpec@rpec.org).

Wendy Bauers Northup, MA, has more than 35 years experience in developing, implementing, and coordinating positive programs for youth and adolescents – in the past 15 years focusing on violence and substance abuse prevention programs. She is currently president of Prevention Opportunities, LLC, an organization dedicated to training and consultation for adolescent health and well-being.

### **Mexican Sociologist to Speak on Immigration and Trade**

On October 7 at 7:30 PM, Witness for Peace SE will bring Marco Antonio Velasquez Navarrete to Richmond. A Mexican Sociologist from the Mexican Network for Action on Free Trade (REMALC), Marco Antonio Valesquez

Navarrete works with the anti-globalization people's movement in Mexico. His talk in Richmond will focus on the impact of corporate-dominated trade policies such as NAFTA on the Mexican people, especially small farmers. It will raise awareness about the connection between trade and immigration, and explain how the economic policies that the U.S. supports in Latin America create economic insecurity and drive people to immigrate north.

RPEC is supporting Witness for Peace in bringing this speaker to Richmond, and invites the community to attend. The talk will be held at St. Augustine Catholic Church, 4400 Beulah Road, Richmond, VA 23237, Tuesday, October 7, 7:30-9:00 pm. It will be in the Fellowship Hall. Enter through the side door.

### **Eyes Wide Open-Virginia**

Eyes Wide Open-Virginia, which commemorates the human cost of the Iraq war, will be displayed at Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, on Friday, October 10; the Front Lawn of Waynesboro High School, Waynesboro, on Saturday, October 11; and Gypsy Hill Park, Staunton, on Sunday, October 12. On October 24<sup>th</sup>, the exhibit will be held at Lynchburg College, at the Dell (or the Hall Campus Center Ballroom as a rain site), in Lynchburg, Virginia.

### **Join the Slave Trail Walk**

On Saturday, October 11, at 9:30 a.m., Richmond Peace Educa-

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# RPEC Happenings

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tion Center members and friends are invited to participate in a guided walk along Richmond's historic slave trail. The walk will begin from Libby Hill Park and will last about 3 hours. It will be led by Cricket White and Rev. Tee Turner of Initiatives of Change / Hope in the Cities. We will follow the trail along the river that enslaved people were forced to walk upon arrival in Richmond. Cricket and Tee lead these walks as part of Hope in the Cities' efforts to deepen the Richmond community's recognition and understanding of slavery and its lasting legacy.

If you would like to participate, please email [rpec@rpec.org](mailto:rpec@rpec.org) or call 232-1002 to register. The walk is free.

## Civil Rights and Race Relations in Virginia Public Education

On Thursday, October 23, 7 to 9 p.m., in partnership with the William Byrd Community House, RPEC will co-sponsor a lecture and discussion focused on the Prince Edward County school closings. It will be held at St. Andrew's School Auditorium at 236 Laurel Street in Richmond.

The speakers will include Woody Holton, University of Richmond History Professor who as a young, white, boy, attended an all black Richmond middle school; Dorothy Holcomb and Theresa Clark, who were both affected by the closing of public schools in Prince Edward County 1959 to 1965, and Brian Grogan, a filmmaker with a documentary on the

school closing story. The panelists will share their personal stories, and also speak to the power of change, and the challenges of sparking change in the present and future. For more information, call 804-643-2717 or visit the WBCH website at <http://www.wbch.org>.

## Alternatives to Violence Project

RPEC is sponsoring an Alternatives to Violence Project Advanced Workshop November 14 to 16, 2008 held at Unity of Richmond at 800 Blanton Ave. in Richmond. It is open to people who have taken AVP Basic. The fee of just \$10 includes snacks and drinks. Pre-registration is required. To register, or for more information, contact Richmond Peace Education Center at 804-232-1002 or [rpec@rpec.org](mailto:rpec@rpec.org). AVP helps people change their lives. It is an intensive learning experience, offering workshops on three levels, the Basic, Advanced, and Training for Trainers. After completing the Training for Trainers, participants are certified to be workshop facilitators. The advanced AVP Workshop concentrates on deepening conflict resolution skills.

## Annual SOA Protest

Each year for the past 18 years, a group of activists from the Americas has gathered at Fort Benning in Georgia in mid-November to call for the closing of the School of the Americas (SOA). The weekend event commemorates the assassination of six Jesuit priests, a co-worker and her daughter by Sal-

vadoran military who had been trained at the SOA. It is a weekend of speeches, music, puppets, non-violence training, and powerful, symbolic protest. Last year 25,000 people participated.

Since at least 1997, groups (including one from Pax Christi) in Richmond have made the three-day journey. And on two occasions, folks from Richmond have "crossed the line" as part of the protest and have been subject to prison or probation. A group will go again this year (Nov 21-23). A schedule of events is available at [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org) or you can connect to the Richmond group by calling the RPEC office.

## Planning for the 2009 RYPP Educoncert to Start Soon

This month, RYPP will begin planning for its annual Educoncert commemorating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Young people (either individuals or groups) and their sponsors interested in participating the January show should email [rypp@rpec.org](mailto:rypp@rpec.org) or call the Center at 232-1002.

## Discussions on Racial Justice Set For Early 2009

The Richmond Peace Education Center will present a 4-part workshop--Racial Justice in Richmond--in January and February of 2009. This is the second offering of this program, which was first presented in the fall of 2007. The

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# RPEC Happenings

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sessions will take place on four Tuesday evenings, at St. Gertrude's High School, 3215 Stuart Avenue. Each session begins at 6 p.m. and ends at 8:30 p.m. Participants may also convene at 5:30 for an optional brownbag dinner and conversation.

The workshop is intended to build solidarity among individuals and organizations in greater Richmond as participants work towards social and economic justice for all. Workshop participants will enhance their understanding of issues of racial justice in the region, and develop a deeper commitment to making our community a better environment for diverse racial and ethnic groups. Participants will leave the final session with the beginnings of a collaborative action project.

The dates and titles of each session are:

**Tuesday, Jan. 6:** What is Racial Justice?

**Tuesday, Jan. 20:** Race & Power in Richmond

**Tuesday, Feb. 3:** Racism & Violence

**Tuesday, Feb. 17:** Taking Action for Racial Justice

Participants are asked to make a commitment to attend all four sessions. Early registration is encouraged. The workshop is limited to 20 participants, and we expect more people to register than we can accommodate. The registration fee for the entire series is \$25. Scholarships are available. To register, or for more information, email [rpec@rpec.org](mailto:rpec@rpec.org) or call 232-1002.

## Support RPEC

### Support Ellwood Thompson's Local Market 5% Day 12/13

RPEC will be the beneficiary of Ellwood Thompson's 5% Day program on December 13, 2008. That day, RPEC volunteers will bag groceries and assist customers in carrying bags out to their cars. We'll use that time as an opportunity to tell customers about the center. We will also have a table with information set up at the store. RPEC receives 5% of proceeds sold that day. Please let us know if you can volunteer that day. And do your grocery shopping on the 13th. The more the store sells that day, the more the center will receive in support of peace programs.

### RPEC Night at Ten Thousand Villages

How would you like to get your holiday shopping done early, support craftspeople from the developing world, and help RPEC all at the same time? Mark your calendar for Wednesday, November 12, 5-8 p.m., at 3201 W. Cary Street in Carytown. The fair-trade store Ten Thousand Villages is sponsoring a Community Shopping Night for the center. They will stay open late that evening, and donate 20% of all sales during that period to RPEC. See you there.

## "Campaign" Season

We appreciate receiving contributions through CFC, CVC, LG&S, and United Way. Designating RPEC makes a statement about the importance of our work for peace. If you or a family member work for a government agency or the schools, or for an employer who participates in the United Way campaign, please consider designating RPEC for your contribution. These are our campaign codes:

- Local Government & Schools (LG&S): #140
- Combined Federal Campaign (CFC): # 24756
- United Way: # 3181
- Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC): #3751

Please write both the code and "Richmond Peace Education Center." We appreciate your support!

## Annual Auction Event

RPEC's primary fundraising event of the year is our annual auction will be held this year on Saturday, November 8. We have some exciting new offerings:

- A nine day stay for 2 to 3 persons at a guest cottage in Vieques, Puerto Rico, donated by Janet Worsham
- Home cooked meals from a variety of traditions:
- Indian dinner for four created by Nassen Ghariban
- Barbecued Rib dinner by the Sims sisters - Joni Terry and Debra Fleisher
- Indonesian dinner for four

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## RPEC Happenings

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- from Noni Ledford
- Mandolin lessons from Barry Lawson
- \$100 gift certificate for car service or repair from Decatur's Garage

And once again we will have many of the items you have found so attractive in recent years, including:

- Vacation getaways in Duck, NC (1 week, off-season); South Nags Head, NC (1 week in early May); and Litchfield-by-the-Sea, SC (3 nights, off-season)
- Soup-of-the Month (at least two 6-month packages)

- Oral history from our Peacemaker of the Year, Betsy Brinson
- Home-cooked dinner for four from the Northups
- Libby Reid's elegant paper-mache figures – this year, Great Blue herons
- Dave Depp's stained glass – this year a striking replica of the famed "rose window"
- Interior design consultation from David Barden
- Portrait session from J. Hoefeler photographers, with 11x14 print
- Cookies from Elaine Ogburn

- and candy from Mary Munton
- A variety of great children's books
- Massage and yoga therapy from many of our friends
- Carpentry services from Jim Koren and David Graham
- Pottery from your favorite artists
- Women's fashions from Odile
- Mim Scalin's "mail art" workshop

We hope many of you will join us for good food, delightful music and a wonderful collection of items for auction. Call the office at 232-1002 to make your reservations.

## Consumers Corner

### Agriberry - Delicious, Local Fruit!

Alisha Gallini and John Gallini

My (Alisha's) family joined Agriberry at its startup this summer and we have been receiving delicious fresh fruit for the past nine weeks. Each week we enjoy a total of about 5 lbs. of fruit including three or four of the following: blackberries, raspberries, blueberries, peaches, plums, nectarines, and apples. Last week we received a special treat of raspberry preserves.

Agriberry is a new CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) that started this summer offering a variety of fruits to its shareholders in the Richmond area. Sprout Richmond, an all volunteer group committed to the growth and success of local, sustainable, artisanal farming serving the Richmond, VA metro region, joined with Anne F. Geyer, a farmer in eastern Hanover county to create Agriberry. Anne implements sustainable, earth-friendly practices and integrated pest-management to bring us delicious fruits each week. The pick-up location for this summer is the Lakeside Farmer's Market on Lakeside Dr. about a mile north of Bryan Park.

Agriberry has been a huge success and plans to operate again next summer with a tentative schedule of May 13 – Sep 23, 2009. The pricing will be about \$28 per week. In addition to the above listed fruits, strawberries will be available in the spring.

For more information, contact Chris Humes at [chris@threemiles.com](mailto:chris@threemiles.com) or check out the Sprout Richmond website at <http://threemiles.typepad.com/sproutrichmond/>.

### Correction – Mt. Olive Pickles Boycott

Last issue, I (John) incorrectly stated that there was an active boycott of Mt. Olive Pickles. **Not true!** I heard from two friends that FLOC had settled their dispute with Mt. Olive in 2004 and that the boycott had been called off. My apologies.

**Richmond Peace Education Center  
2008 Peace Essay Contest  
Primary Grade Winner K-3  
First place  
Elizabeth Harrison, gr. 3, St. Catherine's School, Richmond**



**"Peace"**

"If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies." -- Moshe Dayan

My understanding of that quote is that if you only hang out and talk to the people you like, you won't get to know your enemies. Your enemies might turn out to be really nice people once you get to know them. If you are thinking that they're mean, and walking away from them, and doing other disrespectful things to them you are not giving them a chance to tell you about themselves.

An example of this in my personal life is my relationship with my sister. We usually get along, but sometimes we act like enemies. Instead of being meaner to each other or going to our parents to tell on each other we can try to talk it out and break up the fight or argument by ourselves.

An example of this in my community is at my school there is a girl named Peggy in my class. She and I used to not get along very well because I thought she was a show-off and I thought she was rude and she said I was snobby in second grade. But once I let her talk about herself and I spoke to her about myself we became good friends and we still are. We understand each other better now.

An example of this in the world is that people in different religions, different cultures, and different countries and places don't get along because they think that they are so different that they shouldn't be friends with other people who are not like them. These misunderstandings can lead to anger or war.

When it comes to our enemies we should pay more attention to the things we have in common, not the ways we are different. Even though differences make us interesting, some people take them too seriously. We need to understand that we are all humans in the same world.

# Suggested Readings

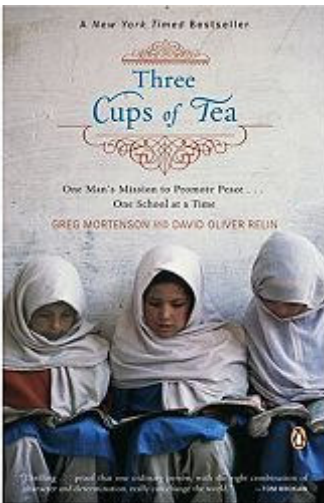
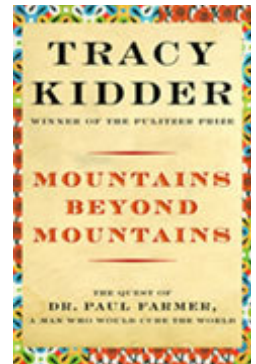
Francis Woodruff

Reading recommendations from RPEC members this month feature absorbing accounts of experiences in cultures different from ours. Two of the titles are biographical narratives of the work of passionately dedicated humanitarians.

*Mountains Beyond Mountains; the Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, a Man Who Would Cure the World.* By Tracey Kidder, Pulitzer Prize winner.

Tracey Kidder's compelling style centers on Dr. Paul Farmer, renowned infectious-diseases specialist, and his dedicated effort to bring the tools of modern medicine to neglected people in Haiti, Peru, and Russia. A leader in international health concerns, Dr. Farmer's driving philosophy is that the only real nation on earth is humanity.

"This is the book that I encourage anyone who is going to Haiti for the first time to read."  
John Gallini



*Three Cups of Tea; One Man's Passion to Promote Peace...One School at a Time.* By Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin.

After a 1993 climbing accident in the Karakoram mountain range of the Himalayas, Greg Mortenson was rescued and cared for by the people of a village in an extremely remote, impoverished area of Pakistan. His long recuperation afforded him the opportunity to grow to know and respect his rescuers, especially the village chief, Haji Ali. Mortenson was impressed by Haji Ali's fervent desire to provide an education for the children, and by his repeated attempts to do so despite overwhelming obstacles. To help by building a school for the village became Mortenson's obsession.

Eventually, the school was built. In the intervening years, many more have been established in the dangerous Taliban-influenced regions along the border of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Greg Mortenson's hard-won success has been achieved because of his determination, his respect for the village people, and his ability to maximize good relations with them.

"*Three Cups of Tea* puts a human face on people living in remote parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan, people who the daily news suggests are a threat to us, but what shines through is their humanity, capacity, and concern for the education of their girls and boys. Ultimately, the book presents an alternative approach for addressing extremism and shows how it's also possible to humanize the face of America for people who may otherwise fear us." John Williamson

Also recommended by RPEC members are the two novels by Khaled Hosseini, *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, both set in Afghanistan. Best-sellers, these riveting works offer the reader emotional insight as well as intellectual understanding. If you haven't had a chance to read these, put them on your list and look forward to timely stories, complex and beautifully written.



# CALENDAR

## Meetings of Local Groups

- Every Sunday** **Food Not Bombs Richmond-Meal Sharing**, 4:00 PM in Monroe Park. Hotline # 359-4880 for details
- Every 3rd Wed. Every Thursday** **Amnesty International**, University of Richmond campus. Contact Ray Hilliard at 289-8289
- Every 3rd Saturday** **Richmond Organization for Sexual Minority Youth (ROSMY)**, 7:00-9:00 PM. Call support line: 353-2077 for more information; 353-1699 for the administrative line.
- Every 3rd Saturday** **Equality Virginia**, 12:00 noon at the office. A political advocacy group working towards equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens of Virginia. Open to the public. Contact number is 643-4816.
- Every 4th Saturday** **Pax Christi Peace Community** - Call Paula Powdermaker for details - 355-7395
- Every 2nd Saturday** **Walk for Peace** - 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM. Meet at the Boulevard entrance of the Virginia Museum. Wear black.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct. 6** **Wendy Bauers Northup will lead a 3-hour workshop on "Emotion Regulation"** (which is commonly called Anger Management) from 6 to 9 PM at the Berryman Center. To register, contact 232-1002 or e-mail [rpec@rpec.org](mailto:rpec@rpec.org). (See p. 5)
- Oct. 7** **Marco Antonio Velasquez Navarrete will talk in Richmond on "The impact of Corporate-dominated Trade Policies Such as NAFTA on the Mexican People, Especially Small Farmers."** The talk will be held at St. Augustine Catholic Church, 4400 Beulah Road, Richmond, VA 23237, Tuesday, October 7, 7:30-9:00 pm. It will be in the Fellowship Hall. Enter through the side door. (See p. 5)
- Oct. 11** **Richmond Peace Education Center members and friends are invited to participate in a guided walk** along Richmond's historic slave trail at 9:30 AM. If you would like to participate, please email [rpec@rpec.org](mailto:rpec@rpec.org) or call 232-1002 to register. The walk is free. (See p. 5)
- Oct. 23** **In partnership with the William Byrd Community House, RPEC will co-sponsor a lecture and discussion focused on the Prince Edward County school closings.** It will be held at St. Andrew's School Auditorium at 236 Laurel Street in Richmond. For more information, call 804-643-2717 or visit the WBCH website at <http://www.wbch.org>. (See p. 6)
- Nov. 8** **Annual Auction Event —RPEC's primary fundraising event.** Call the office at 232-1002 to make your reservations. (See p. 7)
- Nov. 12** **RPEC Night at Ten Thousand Villages** —5-8 PM at 3201 W. Cary Street in Carytown. They will stay open late that evening, and donate 20% of all sales during that period to RPEC. (See p. 7)
- Nov. 14-16** **Alternatives to Violence Project Advanced Workshop** at Unity of Richmond at 800 Blanton Ave. in Richmond. Pre-registration is required. To register, or for more information, contact Richmond Peace Education Center at 804-232-1002 or [rpec@rpec.org](mailto:rpec@rpec.org).
- Nov. 21-23** **Demonstration to call for the closing of the School of the Americas (SOA) at Fort Benning, Georgia.** A schedule of events is available at [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org) or you can connect to the Richmond group by calling the RPEC office at 804-232-1002.



**Don't Miss the  
Richmond Peace Education Center Auction**



**Saturday, November 8,  
at the Troutman-Sanders Conference Center  
on Brown's Island**

**Honor Betsy Brinson  
RPEC's Peacemaker of the Year**

**Make your reservations now  
Email [reservations@rpec.org](mailto:reservations@rpec.org), or call 232-1002.**



**Richmond Peace  
Education Center**

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