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JANUARY 7, 2007

OMNI CENTER NEWSLETTER

Editor: Melanie Dietzel, 479-442-8600
melaniedietzel@cox.net

OMNI CENTER---UPCOMING EVENTS, MEETINGS and CALENDAR

Omni/C.A.T. Connections

Omni C.A.T. Forum Schedule:
   Tuesdays, 6:00p.m.
   Thursdays, 6:00p.m.
   Saturdays, 2:00p.m.

Free Speech TV (FSTV) sponsored by Omni
   3:00a.m. – 9:00a.m. – This is where you'll find in depth reporting and documentaries as well as lectures and speeches by, and interviews with intelligent, insightful minds including Noam Chomsky, Robert McChesney, Dennis Kucinich, Helen Caldicott, Shirin Imbadi and Medea Benjamin.

Democracy NOW with Amy Goodman: Daily 7:00a.m., Sundays 6:00p.m.

Omni Book Samplers: Book Samplers give a five minute book report or read a five minute excerpt from a book. Omni Book Samplers include Dick Bennett, Jon Zimmer, Mendy Knott, Tom Kennedy

Short Takes: Taping at C.A.T.

New Taping Schedule:
   Every Monday night, from 5:00p.m.-6:00p.m., C.A.T. will be doing Short Takes live. This will be a great opportunity for time sensitive material, live entertainment, or anything else that is expressive.

For the folks who don’t want to go on camera live, you can still record your short take from 6:00p.m.-6:30p.m. Both the live and recorded short takes will air the following week as usual.
   If anyone has any comments or questions, please feel free to contact C.A.T.

Viewing Times: 11:00a.m., 5:00p.m., 11:00p.m.

Omni News and Current Events featured on Short Takes:
   Presented by Livia Philips, Cliff Hughes, Dick Bennett

--January 14, Sunday, 6:30p.m., Video Underground, United Campus Ministries, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville
   - "An Inconvenient Truth"
   Still haven’t seen An Inconvenient Truth? Now’s your chance! Humanity is sitting on a ticking time bomb. If the vast majority of the world’s scientists are right, we have just ten years to avert a major catastrophe that could send our entire planet into a tail-spin of epic destruction involving extreme weather, floods, droughts, epidemics and killer heat waves beyond anything we have ever experienced. If that sounds like a recipe for serious gloom and doom -- think again. This film offers a passionate and inspirational look at one man’s fervent crusade to halt global warming’s deadly progress in its tracks by exposing the myths and misconceptions that surround it.

--January 15, 1973 – Nixon orders cease fire in Viet Nam

--January 16, Tuesday, 4:00p.m., Omni Executive Session, Melanie Dietzel's, 1991 Greenview Dr., Fayetteville

--January 18, 5:30p.m. Potluck, 6:00p.m. Omni Steering Committee Meeting, Deep End of UCM, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville

--January 21, Sunday, 7:00p.m. Nightbird Books, 557 S. School, #103, Fayetteville, HOWL(Her
Women are invited to bring your own poetry, prose and music to share, or to bring another woman’s work that is meaningful to you. Both men and women are invited to join us as listeners.

--January 23, Tuesday - Tentative date of the President’s State of the Union address
--January 25, January 26 Thursday–Friday - House Republican retreat
--January 26, Friday, 6:30p.m., Omni Center Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner, United Campus Ministries, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville, AR. - Take Your Place at the Table. Join us: Free dinner, Music by Still on the Hill, Discussion of upcoming Omni events and ways for you to get involved. Pass the Peace - NOW is the time to join or renew your membership and share your energy and ideas toward a culture of peace on an Earth restored. For information, contact Steven Skattebo at 251-9442 or stevenskattebo@hotmail.com
--January 27, 1973 - Signing of the Viet Nam Peace Accord - Viet Nam War ends
--January 28, Sunday, 6:30p.m., Video Underground, United Campus Ministries, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville

- “Toxic Sludge is Good For You”
  This film, from the book by John Stauber and Sheldon Rampton, tracks the development of the public relations industry from early efforts to win popular American support for World War I to the role of crisis management in controlling the damage to corporate image. This video illuminates this hidden sphere of our culture and examines the way in which the management of the public mind has become central to how our democracy is controlled by political and economic elites. Toxic Sludge Is Good For You illustrates how much of what we think of as independent, unbiased news and information has its origins in the boardrooms of the public relations companies.

--February 1, February 2, Thursday–Friday, - House Democratic retreat
--February 4, 7:00p.m. - Omni Center Open Peace MIC, Deep End of UCM, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville - Check this spot for details in next Newsletter

--January 22, Monday, Omni UofA meeting - For more information contact Stephen Coger 479-495-1316 or omniua@uark.edu
--February 5, Monday - Probable date for President to submit annual budget to Congress
--February 14, Wednesday - Valentine’s Day
--February 19, Monday - Presidents’ Birthday (federal holiday)

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS---UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

--January 12, 10:00 am to January 14, 1:00 pm, National Conference for Media Reform, Memphis Cook Convention Center, 255 North Main Street, Memphis, TN - Hosted By: Free Press, 100 Main Street, PO Box 28 , Northampton, MA 01061, http://freepress.net, RSVP by: January 4, 2007 at 12:00 am. Connect with media reform leaders and activists from around the country. Learn how to mobilize media reformers in your community. Get the policy scoop from D.C. and learn how the new political landscape impacts media reform. Be part of the growing movement.

--January 15, Monday - Martin Luther King Jr. Day Annual March will step off from WAC parking lot at 11:15a.m. Following the march a program honoring Dr. King will take place at the Fulbright Peace Fountain on the UA Campus. For more information, call 575-5007.

--January 15, Monday, 7:00p.m. - Alfreda Robinson will speak at The Northwest Arkansas Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Planning Committee 11th Annual recommitment banquet at 7 p.m. at the Fayetteville Town Center. $15-$25. 575-3546.
--January 16, Tuesday, 11:30am, Western Sizzlin in Springdale, Senior Democrats - Guest speaker
will be Lioneld Jordan, President of the Northwest Arkansas Labor Council and a member of the Fayetteville City Council. His topic will be "Martin Luther King's Lessons for Labor and the Democratic Party." Please invite all of your friends. You'll be glad you did and they will, too.

--January 18, Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., ARKU 507-508, Diversity Training – "Diversity: Our Campus-Building a More Inclusive UofA" (Session 1)

--January 19, Friday, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m., ARKU 507-508, Cultural Heritage of the Cherokee – Perry Van Buskirk and Robert Lewis of the Cherokee Heritage Center in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, will present a session on the cultural heritage of the Cherokee. There will be discussion of the beliefs of the Cherokee and how those changed with Christian missionary influence as well as how tools changed from stone to more modern forms. There will also be storytelling and time for questions from the audience

--January 21, Sunday, 1:30 p.m. – Transgender and Intersex Presentation: Everything you wanted to know about gender identity, but didn’t know who to ask. An Interweave sponsored event, free to all. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fayetteville, 901 W. Cleveland Street, Fayetteville AR Questions? Contact starrthinks@yahoo.com

--January 22, Monday, 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m., Roe v. Wade Commemoration, County Courthouse, Corner of Dickson and College Aves., Fayetteville – This is the annual commemoration of the passing of the resolution that legalized abortion. We come together to remember all the women who died before its passage, and to re-dedicate ourselves to protecting this right for the generations who follow. Sponsored by Northwest Arkansas Chapter of NOW. For more information, contact Melanie Dietzel 442-8600 or melaniedietzel@cox.net

--February 3 - 5, The Peace Alliance Annual Conference! Washington, D.C. – Now More than ever We must connect with hundreds of citizens from across the country, expand our understanding of the Department of Peace legislation and how it will impact our culture in practical and profound ways, discover and practice effective lobbying strategies, claim our birthright as a citizens: Visit Capitol Hill and walk the halls of Congress

Meet and lobby our Representatives and Senators. Make our voices heard. Build a political constituency with the power to shape history. Wage Peace with Marianne Williamson, Deepak Chopra, Congressman Dennis Kucinich, Michael Bernard Beckwith, Plus leading experts in: Conflict Resolution & Prevention, Peace-building & Global Security, Human Security: Keeping America Safe, and more. . . REGISTER NOW! PO Box 70095, Rochester Hills MI 48307, phone and fax: (248) 813-8950

--February 13, 12:30 to 4:30, ARKU 507-508, Diversity Training – "Diversity: Our Campus-Building a More Inclusive UofA" (Session 2)

--March 6, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., ARKU 513-514, Diversity Training – "Diversity: Our Campus-Building a More Inclusive UofA" (Session 3)

WHAT'S GOING ON?---CURRENT EVENTS

CHANGING OF THE GUARD AT OMNI CENTER

After five years of strong and effective leadership, Omni’s co-founder and President Dick Bennett is leaving office. While Dick will still be involved and active in Omni Center, we have a new slate of officers for 2007: Co-Presidents Gladys Tiffany and Melanie Dietzel, Co-Vice Presidents Kelly Mulhollan and Donna Stjerna. Steven Skattebo will stay on as treasurer. We remain dedicated to our goals of a world at peace, with justice for all, and a sustainable environment for all creatures who share this planet. We look forward to welcoming new members and continuing our involvement in the community. Thanks to Kate Ward for her coverage in the Northwest Arkansas Times about the Omni Center and the current transition period.
STOPPING THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

Since early 2003, the Sudanese military and government-sponsored militias have carried out targeted killing of black Africans in Sudan's Darfur region. 400,000 people are dead, tens of thousands of girls (as young as eight) and women brutally gang-raped, 2.5 million displaced and at risk of starvation (whose refugee camps are now under attack), 90 percent of Darfurian villages have been destroyed.

The state of Arkansas and the Universities of Arkansas (through public employee retirement schemes and endowments) unknowingly invest more than $10 billion dollars in equities, bonds, etc. issued by companies that finance and provide infrastructure that aids the government of Sudan's conduct of genocide.

If you wish to help stop the genocide in Darfur, contact your state legislators and University Board of Regents and ask them to divest from companies that are linked to the genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

For more information, contact http://sudandivestment-arkansas.blogspot.com/ or email stand@uark.edu to reach the Arkansas Sudan Divestment Taskforce, c/o Students Taking Action Now: Darfur, ARKU A665, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

OMNI MULLINS LIBRARY PEACE BOOK AND FILM COLLECTION

The endowed collection is composed of four subject areas: VICTIMS, NONVIOLENCE, INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING, WHISTLEBLOWING. Rationale: In a world in which the value of victory over others too often predominates--militarists, imperialists, dominionists, bigots-- these books and films foreground the value of caring for the victims of economic, military, and religious depredations.

Nonviolence is a chief value underlying the protection and rescue of the victims of the world. In the word "Satyagraha," the name Gandhi gave to a way of overcoming injustice, "satya" means the search for truth and "agraha" means persistence. Inseparable from Satyagraha is "Ahimsa"; that is, "a-himsa" (hims: desiring to kill): the effort to avoid killing until the desire to kill has been replaced by love for others and justice.

The "search for" and the "effort to" remind us of Gandhi's lifelong "experiments with truth." Investigative journalists and whistleblowers are two kinds of people who assist us in our search for truth. Working outside centers of power, these journalists are dedicated to the persistent exposure of corruption and discovery of truth, always the essential initial step toward justice. Working inside governments and corporations, whistleblowers take great economic and even life-threatening risks to expose wrongdoing and return truth and honesty to ruling enterprises.

Thanks to Molly Boyd, Mullins has a news rotator item about the "Peace" collection. You can see it at http://libinfo.uark.edu/. You may have to click the reload button on your browser several times to get it to come up. Or, you can view it directly through the feeds at http://libinfo.uark.edu/info/whatsnew.asp. Notice on that "What's New?" page, we have added a new link to "Collection News," which features the Omni Center Collection. You can access it directly on http://libinfo.uark.edu/info/collectionnews.asp.

THOMAS PAINE DESERVES A RESOLUTION

Nine States have passed a Resolution making every January 29th henceforth, "Thomas Paine Day" (Paine's birth date in 1737). (A Proclamation for this year only, was signed by the Governor). Now, it is time, and long overdue, for Arkansas to commemorate Paine, every year, for his indelible contributions to our liberty says Jack Makens, a member of Thomas Paine Friends, Inc. (www.thomaspainefriends.org). These were often "firsts" affirming Paine as a great author, innovator, genius, and universal humanitarian. Makens
believes that once this Resolution is read, it will become clear that we owe Paine a debt of gratitude and that he deserves the title of "FATHER OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION". - (This is an inscription at the base of a Thomas Paine statue in Bordentown, New Jersey, a former home of Paine).

Makens is pursuing having a Resolution Bill entered and passed by various means: Having a Thomas Paine table at the Fayetteville Farmers' Market and contacting legislators and historians etc. He needs to get support from more citizens; else he feels his efforts alone will not be sufficient. He can be contacted at b4ethics@yahoo.com for a copy of the proposed Resolution, and more.

CALL FOR PAPERS
From the Center for Human Rights and Civil Liberties to be presented at the second Annual Conference on Human Rights: Genocide in the 20th and 21st Centuries: Cases, Causes and Cures (Other topics also welcome on human rights or civil liberties) March 23-24, 2007, Liberal Arts Building on the Hattiesburg, Miss. campus of Southern Miss.

- LOOK WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO -- HAPPENINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED

BLACK TUESDAY VIGIL
Sadly, the number of our United States service members killed in Iraq crossed over the 3,000 mark along with the hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians killed and thousands of soldiers and civilians wounded. Omni sponsored a candlelight vigil in front of the Federal Building on Tuesday, January 2. About sixty people stood watch, dressed in black as we mourned too many dead and dying. Special thanks to Omni Co-President Gladys Tiffany who organized the event, to Chris Delacruz who helped get the word out, and to Rev. Kerry Mueller who offered an invocation. Thanks also, to Kate Ward from the Northwest Arkansas Times for her coverage of this gathering.

OMNI SEEKS A WORLD FREE OF WAR AND THE THREAT OF WAR, A SOCIETY WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL, A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERY PERSON'S POTENTIAL MAY BE FULFILLED, AN EARTH RESTORED. GRASSROOTS NONVIOLENCE, WORLD PEACE, HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL and ECONOMIC JUSTICE, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROTECTING SPECIES AND THE EARTH.

CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES
      Phone: (202) 224-4843 Fax: (202) 228-1371.
      • Fayetteville office: 251-1380

--Senator Mark Pryor: Web Site (see contact link): www.pryor.senate.gov ; http://pryor.senate.gov/contact/
Phone: (202) 224-2353 Fax: (202) 228-0908

  Phone: (501) 324-6336 Fax: (501) 324-5320

--Congressman John Boozman, District 3, 12 counties from Benton to Washington
- Lowell office: 479-725-0400. 213 W. Monroe, Suite K, 72745. Steve Gray, coordinator of office. Web site (with contact link): http://www.boozman.house.gov/  Heath Hasenbeck, intern (one of them). Boozman’s new office in Lowell is located at 213 West Monroe in Lowell between I 540 and Business 71. To reach that office take Exit 78 off I - 540 and go east. You will be on Hwy 264 which is also West Monroe. The office is in the Puppy Creek Plaza, past the McDonald’s on the right. His suite is in the back of the complex to the left.
- Harrison office: 870-741-6900; 402 N. Walnut, Suite 210, Harrison 72601.