OMNI CENTER NEWSLETTER

January 6, 2008

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Please send upcoming events to this email address: melaniedietzel@yahoo.com

OMNI CENTER---UPCOMING EVENTS, MEETINGS and CALENDAR

SPECIAL MESSAGES

Omni Center’s Fourth Annual Members Meeting

Friday January 25, 2008, 6:00 p.m. - Members and Friends to gather at United Campus Ministries building, 902 W. Maple Street. Community dinner starts at 6:00 p.m., program about 7:00 p.m. (Food and Drink provided by OMNI. If possible, please bring your own place service – we’d like to limit the use of paper plates). Music by Still on the Hill, and maybe other Omni luminaries. A great opportunity to catch up with old friends and to make new ones.

Workshops scheduled include:

Joanna Macy and the Work that Reconnects - a report by Leigh Wilkerson on an intensive workshop with deep-ecologist/Buddhist scholar/systems theorist Joanna Macy on the ways activists and would-be activists can overcome paralysis/burnout and work to change the world in a way that sustains rather than drains the activist.

See joannamacy.net for more information.

Sustainable Farming: the gentle way to feed the planet, one community at a time - A discussion of farming practices which can change the way food is grown, and how it can save our families, our communities, and our planet. Presented by noted sustainable food systems presenter Patrice Gros. A full time organic farmer for 10 years, he is the co-founder of two area Farmers Markets (Berryville & Eureka Springs, AR), and sits on the board of the Eureka Market. Patrice runs Foundation Farm and its associated Farm School. He is a columnist and lecturer on topics ranging from Sustainable Farming to the Build-Up of Local Economies. For more info visit http://www.foundationfarm.com

Sensible Fayetteville - As a positive shift away from draconian drug laws, Ryan Denham talks about a suggested city code that places marijuana possession as the least important priority for law enforcement officials. A similar ordinance was passed by Eureka Springs last year. Federal drug laws have driven our prison system to crisis, and into the hands of private corporations. At the same time, it has created class and human-rights dilemmas on a wide scale. A sensible step for Fayetteville is a major step for American human rights.

Facing the Fear Factor - America appears to be moving toward a more fascist government, and many people are becoming anxious about it. People who believe in
nonviolence need to know what powerful tools of nonviolence are available to them in tense and uncertain situations. **Gladys Tiffany** and **Shelley Buonaiuto** lead discussion on some remarkable and already-available options. There are more than you might think. 

“It is not enough to say we must not wage war. It is necessary to love peace and sacrifice for it.”  

-Martin Luther King Jr.

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**Omni/Community Access Television (C.A.T.) Connections**

[www.catfayetteville.com](http://www.catfayetteville.com)

**How You Can Use the Community Media Center:**

1) Produce a TV Show! Let your creativity reign and watch your own show air on CAT television.

2) Take a class! Learn how to use a video camera, work the studio equipment and edit projects.

3) Be on TV! With your own short takes or star in someone else’s show.

4) Save a special day in your life! Have the professional CAT crew shoot and edit your event.

5) Sponsor a show! Send in footage from other Community Access stations to air locally here in Fayetteville.

6) Get involved! Join the community access community. Use the electronic Community Message Board.

**Democracy NOW! Schedule:**

- Tuesdays, 1/8 and 1/15  6:00p.m.  Democracy NOW!
- Thursdays, 1/10 and 1/17  6:00p.m.  Democracy NOW!
- Friday  1/11 and 1/18  6:00p.m.  Democracy NOW!
- Sunday  1/13 and 1/20  6:00p.m.  Democracy NOW!

**Coming Soon:** **Omni in Review:** Panel Discussions on a variety of current issues. Watch this space for details.
Free Speech TV (FSTV) sponsored by Omni - 3:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. - FSTV: the world’s largest collection of alternative TV and numerous ideas for organizing, protesting, celebrating, researching, investigating, speaking, raising hell.  [www.freespeechtv.com]

**FSTV broadcast schedule:**

3:00 am  Daily

**Amy Goodman Online** - You can listen/watch previous Democracy Now programs by internet streaming from Democracy Now website [http://democracynow.org](http://democracynow.org). Previous programs (going back many years) are archived there. You can watch the current program (after they post it about noon) by going to [http://democracynow.org/streampage.pl](http://democracynow.org/streampage.pl)

Visit the Democracy Now Website to view:

- Peace Activists Take Action to Keep Focus on War During Presidential Campaign
- Vote for Change? Atrocity-Linked U.S. Officials Advising Democratic, GOP Presidential Frontrunners
- Forums and Discussions -
  - Wednesday, January 9, 9:30 pm - Impeachment Seminar/War Crimes
  - Saturday, January 12, 8:30 pm - Impeachment Seminar/War Crimes

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**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, Tom Kennedy, Claire Detels.

**Short Takes:** Taping at C.A.T.

**Taping Schedule:**

Every Monday night, from 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.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 6:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m Mondays, and on Tuesdays from 12 noon - 1:30 p.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 Cliff Hughes, Dick Bennett

**Other Viewing Opportunities:**

Bill Moyers Journal on PBS, Fridays, 9:00p.m.

http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/index-flash.html

For More Information about the US/Iran status, you can visit http://www.buzzflash.com/search/?Query=iran or BBC at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/default.stm

**OMNI CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

--**January 9, Wednesday, 7-9p.m., Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 901 W. Cleveland, Fayetteville, Michael Dowd and Connie Barlow(Connie at 6-6:45pm; Michael at 7-9pm)** - Most writers would be thrilled to have a Nobel laureate endorse their new book. For author Michael Dowd, no less than five Nobel laureates — most in the sciences — have written glowing reviews of praise for Dowd’s unique take on evolution. But add in the fact that Reverend Michael Dowd was once a conservative evangelical who protested the teaching of evolution and things get interesting! With new polls showing Americans as deeply divided as ever over the origins of life, Dowd’s brand new book, Thank God For Evolution!: How the Marriage of Science and Religion Will Transform Your Life (Council Oak Books) is already being celebrated on both sides of the debate. For more information on the presenters see www.thankgodforevolution.com and also their older website www.thegreatstory.org (look for the "version 1.0" link) to find writings as well as free audio and video presentations on both websites. If you would like to attend a preview screening of DVDs on the work of Dowd and Barlow, please email leigh@herwords.org or call 582-9209 for more information.

--**Sunday, January 13, 7:30p.m., Video Underground, United Campus Ministries, 902 W. Maple, Rev. Billy and the Church of Stop Shopping** - Wikipedia offers the following description: “The Church of Stop Shopping is an activist performance group based in New
York City led by Reverend Billy, the stage name of Bill Talen. Using the form of a revival meeting, on sidewalks and in chain stores, Reverend Billy and his gospel choir exhort consumers to abandon the products of large corporations and mass media; the group also preaches a broader message of economic justice, environmental protection, and anti-militarism, protesting sweatshops and the Iraq War. Though it continues its street theater activities, the Church has also appeared on stage and has toured internationally.

**VIDEO UNDERGROUND** shows FREE political, social, and current event videos every second and fourth Sunday of the month. These movies are shown at the OMNI CENTER FOR PEACE, JUSTICE, AND ECOLOGY located at 902 W. Maple in Fayetteville, on the main floor of the Presbyterian and Disciples United Campus Ministry. Visit us: [http://omni-vu-films.blogspot.com/](http://omni-vu-films.blogspot.com/)

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**January 17, Thursday, 5:30p.m. potluck, 6:00p.m., Omni Center Steering Committee Meeting, 902 W. Maple (in the Deep End of United Campus Ministries), Fayetteville**

**Sunday, January 20, 6:30P.M. HOWL: Women’s Open Mic at Nightbird Books, Old Mill Building, Corner of School and 6th Streets, Fayetteville - 2007 HOWL SOMETHING NEW:**

HOWL happens the third Sunday of each month at Nightbird Bookstore. At HOWL, women are invited to read poems (their own or another woman writer’s), share short prose or sing at an open mic forum hosted by Mendy Knott. So come read, sing or play your work to a really receptive audience. It’s a great place to “try out” new work, share your masterpieces, or read for the very first time. Men and women are warmly invited to attend this celebration of women’s words. Nightbird Books is located in the old mill buildings at the corner of School and 6th ST. Their phone number is 443-2080. Reading starts at 6:30 but come early to sign up to read, browse the books and enjoy the good company. For HOWL questions or to join our mailing list, email howl@herwords.org. HOWL is a collaboration between Herwords and the Omni Center, supported Nightbird Books in Fayetteville, AR.

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**January 21, Monday, 11:15a.m.Martin Luther King Jr. Day March and Vigil - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Gather at Walton Arts Center Parking lot, March to Arkansas Union Connections Lounge for Noon Vigil. Events sponsored by NWA MLK Planning Committee, City of Fayetteville, UA Black Students Association and Association Student Government.**

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**January 21, Monday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Crystal Bridges at the Massey - Omni Center will be joining other organizations in honoring Dr. King at Crystal Bridges on the Massey in Bentonville. Inspired Ideas is the theme for this family day that will include hands-on art work and story telling. Crystal Bridges on the Massey is a temporary exhibit**
space and educational and community resource for Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, located on the first floor of the historic Massey Building just off the square in downtown Bentonville.

--January 25, Friday, 6:00p.m., Omni Center Annual Membership Meeting (See top of newsletter)

--February 2, Saturday, 10:00a.m., Rapid Response Writers, Fayetteville Public Library - For our Feburary 2 RR meeting, we will discuss Coralie Koonce's new book on critical thinking entitled *Models, Myths, and Muddles.* Coralie has been an original, integral part of Rapid Response Writers Group, and everyone is encouraged to support her diligent efforts toward spreading a revival of critical thinking. She will be conducting a book-signing at Nightbird Books on the evening of February 2.

--February 3, Sunday, 7:00p.m. Omni Open Mic for Peace, UCM Campus Ministries Deep End, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville - The Omni Open Mic for Peace is held the first Sunday of each month from September to May. If you would be interested in being a host for Open Mic, please call Donna Stjerna and Kelly Mulhollan at 479-582-2291 or at stillonthehill @ sbcglobal.net

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS---UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

--January 16, Wednesday, 11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m., League of Women Voters of Washington County, Fayetteville Public Library, Walker Room, Presidential Candidate Issues - In preparation for the February presidential primary, the League of Women Voters of Washington County will present Dr. Andrew Dowdle, Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Arkansas, to speak on issues in the presidential campaign. This program is open to the public at no charge. For Further Information: Contact - Joyce Hale, Phone - 527-2777

--January 17, Thursday, University of Arkansas/Fort Smith, Wind Energy Conference - The Arkansas Energy Office is sponsoring a day-long Arkansas Wind Energy Conference on the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith.

The conference begins at 8 a.m. in the Reynolds Room of the Campus Center and ends at 2:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required. There is no charge for those registered by
January 10, 2008, but there will be a $20 charge after that date. To register online, go to http://survey.uaex.edu/CD/AWEC/awec.htm. For more information, e-mail Maureen Rose at mrose@uaex.edu or call 501-671-2066.

--January 18, Friday, 6:30p.m., The Business of Being Born, White Auditorium, NWACC, Bentonville - Participate in human rights and social justice in our community. Women are being deprived of choices, information not being freely given. BirthNetworkNWA presents The Business of Being Born, a documentary that explores and questions birthing practices in this country and advocates for mothers' rights and better maternity care. The event opens to the public at 6:30 pm. Silent auction, door prizes and a talkback panel following the film. Admission is free. Donations accepted. Proceeds benefit the BirthNetwork’s Transparency in Maternity Care initiative. For more information visit www.birthnetworknwa.org or call Sara at 479-587-8481.

--January 26, 2008, Saturday, doors open at 6, Fashion Show starts at 7:30p.m., "Night in White", George's Majestic Lounge, Dickson St. - 3rd annual fashion show with silent auction, door prizes, and free hors d’oeuvres, sponsored by SARPA (Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention Agency). Tickets are $15.00 general admission. Tickets include after show with Benjamin Del Shreve and the Ben Rector band. SARPA provides education and prevention programs throughout the community as well as 24/7 direct survivor services available to survivors and co-survivors of sexual assault. Sarpa has recently developed the first and only formalized Adult Sexual Assault Response Team Program with a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner clinic. All of Sarpa’s services are free and available in Spanish. website: www.sarpa.us

--January 31 and February 1, 2008, Denver, National PR Conference for Progressives -

Progressive activists can sharpen their communications skills at a "national conference on media relations for progressives." The True Spin Conference will include 25 workshops, lectures, and panel discussions by some of the leading progressive PR practitioners in the country.

The faculty includes: Medea Benjamin, Code Pink; Andy Bichlbaum, Yes Men!; Kathy Bonk and Emily Tynes, Authors, Strategic Communications for Nonprofits; Beach Codevilla, Spitfire Strategies; Lori Dorfman, Berkeley Media Studies Group; Alan Jenkins, The Opportunity Agenda; Martin Kearns, Green Media Toolshed; Robert Perez, Fenton Communications; Rashad Robinson, GLAAD; David Sirota, Author, Hostile Takeover; and others.

The first True Spin Conference in 2006 sold out with 200 registrants from around the country, including PR people from all types of progressive organizations.

Session topics include: How to Deal with EDs Who Just Don’t Get it; YouTube: Show and Tell; Strategic Media Planning; Be like GLAAD; Demystifying the Interactive
Web; Theatrical Protest: A Case Study in Pink; How to Collaborate with the Netroots and Bloggers; Connecting PR to Fundraising; and How to Work with Hollywood.

http://www.truespinconference.com/program.htm

--March 19, Wednesday, Washington, D.C. UFPJ March on Washington - On the 5th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, United for Peace and Justice will sponsor a march and rally in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit the following links:
http://www.unitedforpeace.org/article.php?id=3817
http://blog.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=blog.view&friendID=75518196&blogID=33681

--NIGHT-COURSE ON HISTORY and PRACTICE OF NON-VIOLENCE OFFERED BY PROFESSOR SIDNEY BURRIS and GESHE DORJEE - Professor Sidney Burris and Geshe Dorjee will offer their course on the history and practice of non-violence in the Spring of 2008. The course will meet every Tuesday night from 6:00-8:50 p.m. in Old Main. HIST 399V (Special Topics, 3 hours credit): "Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Dalai Lama: The Fate of Non-Violence in the 21st Century."

Course Description:

This course will examine the history of non-violence by studying the careers of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Dalai Lama. Professor Burris will provide the socio-historical lectures surrounding these three figures, while Geshe Dorjee will teach the philosophy and practice of non-violence that directed the lives of these three extraordinary individuals. The course will familiarize the students not only with the philosophical context for these revolutionary ideas, but will also examine the historical consequences of its practice, from India's fight for independence to the Civil Rights movement in America. The course will conclude with an in-depth examination of the community of Tibetans in exile as they are currently being led by the Dalai Lama. A substantial component of the course will also be given to understanding how the principles of non-violence might be profitably adopted in our own lives as cogent responses to the political and social crises that are erupting both here in America and abroad. Aside from anthologies of work by Gandhi and King, a selection of other books and films central to an understanding of non-violence will be consulted. For more information, contact the History Department at the University of Arkansas.

WHAT'S GOING ON?---CURRENT EVENTS and INFORMATION

LOCALLY:
GREG MOORE EXHIBIT

Long-time OMNI and Steering Committee member, artist Greg Moore, is showing his paintings at Ozark Natural Foods during the month of January. See the article in ONF’s latest newsletter. Greg’s understanding of the transformative power of historical and political art is profound. His portraits of civil rights advocates or war protesters "change the dynamics of a room, infusing it with the memory of someone who fought courageously for social justice while reminding everyone of the ongoing injustices in our society." His show will include portraits of "US soldiers who have refused to go to Iraq or have spoken out against our Government’s illegal and morally reprehensible invasion and occupation of that sovereign country." And he suggests we support these soldiers by going to www.couragetoresist.org

Submitted by Dick Bennett

TEN TO THE 3RD POWER: A CLASS ON BUSTING THROUGH CREATIVE BLOCKS

BY MENDY KNOTT

Want to create more, more freely or more deeply? Still a few spaces open in Mendy’s Creativity Class (and a new day...) Begins January 16, 2008 -for Ten WEDNESDAY evenings --

Ten Thursday evenings beginning January 10, 2008 - Cost $100-- (Will meet at "Nature's Water" space near Nightbird Books... 6:30-8:30pm)

What are the blocks that keep you from your creative work? Take this special class and learn techniques to bust on through those blocks! Creative writing will be the focus, and writing will be key to the exercises we do, both in class and out. The lessons learned, however, will apply to nearly any creative process.

Before the class begins you will be asked to submit via email a few of your most serious blocks to being more creative. I’ll take 10 of the most frequently mentioned "blocks" and for 10 weeks we will work through them, one per session. You’ll be prepared to face any roadblock that shows up on the path to creativity! The materials developed for the class and your participation (not by name) may be material for my upcoming book.

Poet, creativity coach, and performance artist, Mendy Knott moved to Fayetteville from Asheville, NC. Mendy has taught creativity classes at workshops, featured at poetry performances across the Southeast as well as having multiple spoken-word CDs, poetry chapbooks and publications.
If you are interested in taking this class -- send an email to get full class information. Class will be limited to 10. Open to women and men. Once you pay by check, your spot will be reserved. Email: hillpoet@yahoo.com and put "Blocks" in the subject line or call 582-9209.

MASKS FOR CHANGE

WITH JO ANNE KAMINSKY

The Art Experience, 641 W. 6th Street, Fayetteville, AR, 72701

Saturdays 10-12 pm, 6 weeks, Beginning January 26, Fee $160, Materials included

The dark of winter is the time for inner growth. Are you ready to recreate your life through art? Here is your hands-on opportunity to make your own MASK OF CHANGE. We use the metaphor of the Mask to look at our lives, see what we need to do and find the courage it takes to make the changes. Jo Ann has created a supportive, non-judgmental setting, where creativity and search are welcome.

You will work with a varied array of art materials, journaling, sound and movement to develop your own "spirit" mask to bring forth transformation in your life.

Highlights include:

- Visual arts
- experience
- Movement
- Drama

Personal exploration in a supportive group

The workshop is led by Jo Ann Kaminsky, Art Therapist, Play Therapist, Counselor, Artist In Education, artist and puppeteer. She has led classes, public art projects, workshops and groups for all ages in a variety of settings, for over 15 years. Her masks and puppets have been seen in First Night Fayetteville. She enjoys working with people on issues of healing and change, using the expressive arts.

ARKANSAS COALITION FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE PLANNING MARCH EVENT

We are planning an event to mark the Fifth Anniversary of the War in Iraq in March. We will let you know where and when as soon as we have more information. Please contact us if you would like to be involved in the planning and in the event. We will also decide about other Saturday peace demonstrations at a later date. We will have more
THE 2ND ANNUAL LITTLE ROCK FILM FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2008 DATES

This popular festival is accepting entries. The 2nd Annual Little Rock Film Festival (LRFF) will be held May 15th-18th, 2008 in Downtown Little Rock, Arkansas.

Coming off of a successful first year, it will once again showcase films from around the world and honor local filmmakers through its Best of Arkansas award. Last year there were more than 20 Arkansas films showcased throughout the festival along with multiple panels and workshops that were geared in educating the local film community.

Call for Entries began November 15, 2007 and films can be submitted through the LRFF’s website, www.littlerockfilmfestival.org. Fees for films submitted by January 2, 2008 are $10 for Shorts under 35 minutes long, and $25 for features 35 minutes or over. Films submitted after this date, and on or before February 15, 2008 are $20 for shorts and $35 for features.

For more information about the Little Rock Film Festival, please contact Co-Coordinator/Director of Arkansas Program Jack Lofton via cell 501.352.5687 or email Jack@LittleRockFilmFestival.org.

STUDY ABROAD IN SOUTHERN AFRICA
Spend your summer session I in South Africa! Earn credits while seeing penguins, lions and learning about other cultures. There will be two-and-a-half weeks of classroom instruction in Fayetteville (to introduce students to the natural and human history of Southern Africa) followed by three weeks of travel. For more information, e-mail Charles Adams cadams@uark.edu or Peter Ungar pungar@uark.edu. For applications and scholarship information, go to http://studyabroad.uark.edu.

2008 $500 ANNUAL OMNI CRITICAL THINKING AWARDS
FOR TEACHERS IN WASHINGTON AND BENTON COUNTIES, ARKANSAS

What is Critical Thinking?

Critical Thinking is the use of knowledge, facts, science, evidence, logic to evaluate
and understand ideas and information, to detect falsehood, and to form conclusions, judgments, and inferences.

Why do we need it?

Today, more than ever before, we are bombarded with commercial and political propaganda. Clear Thinking enables us to decide if what we read and hear is true, factual, biased, or manipulative.

Clear Thinking also enables us to recognize our own fallacious thinking, biases, and assumptions.

Reasoning together through knowledge and language is an alternative to violence. The practice of Critical Thinking helps, by creating active, informed citizens, invigorates democracy. “Critical thinking skills” imply an ability to analyze ideas, stories, claims, and assertions both through relevant, factual knowledge and by training in analysis and by being able to think for oneself. Independent mindedness and autonomy have long been considered essential to a democracy since President Jefferson.

These awards are sponsored by OMNI Center for Peace, Justice, and Ecology.

We at OMNI are devoted to the advancement of reasoned contemplation and conversation about issues that affect our community and world. We seek to extend the influence of reason and informed debate. The deadline for nominations in May 1, 2008.

INVITATIONS TO TEACHERS, THE OMNI CRITICAL THINKING AWARDS

Washington and Benton counties public school teachers from all disciplines are invited to fill out an application and submit materials about their teaching of Critical Thinking. The awards recognize both specific teaching units or projects and teachers who incorporate clear thinking into their everyday classes.

County committees of local citizens chosen from various walks of life will evaluate the applications. When the committee has made its decision, OMNI will offer one $500 award to the Washington County teacher and one $500 award to the Benton Country teacher who has been selected as the most outstanding. (More information is available on OMNI’s website (www.omnicenter.org). Also contact the coordinators: Lynda Haley-Brothers, Washington County (teacherhuman@cox.net) and Carole Westby, Benton County (westbyforhouse98@cox.net).
SAME-SEX COUPLES CELEBRATE A STEP TOWARD EQUALITY
Dozens of same-sex couples in New Hampshire marked the new year by having ceremonies for civil unions, which became legal on Tuesday, January 1, in that state.

ON-LINE COURSES OFFERED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATORS
The Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) and the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point are offering the following online course for their spring and summer semesters: "Fundamentals of Environmental Education" and "Applied EE Program Evaluation"
There are $200 scholarships available for the FEE and AEEPE courses. The FEE scholarships are offered to course participants that are state EE leaders and the AEEPE scholarships are offered to course participants that are community and/or state EE leaders.
For more information, contact: Ali Cordie, Online Course Graduate Assistant, Environmental Education & Training Partnership, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, College of Natural Resources, Stevens Point, WI 54481, (715) 346-4748

WINTER SOLDIERS: IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN INVESTIGATION
On the weekend of 13-15 March, 2008, Iraq Veterans Against the War will assemble history’s largest gathering of US veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as Iraqi and Afghan survivors. They will provide first hand accounts of their experiences and reveal the truth of occupation.
Support Iraq Veterans Against the War and their Winter Soldier: Iraq & Afghanistan Investigation. Join in supporting their efforts to reveal truth in the way that only those who lived it can, by signing the statement of support:
http://www.ivaw.org/wintersoldierstatmentofsupport

POSTING ON PUBLIC OPINION FROM DEATH PENALTY INFORMATION CENTER
According to new polling analysis from the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life,
support for the death penalty among the general public has dropped to 62% (August 2007), down from a high of 80% support in the mid-1990s. Among black respondents, 51% opposed the death penalty and only 40% were in favor. Hispanics were about evenly split with 48% in favor of the death penalty and 47% opposed. Eighty-two (82%) percent of conservative Republicans support the death penalty, but only 41% of liberal Democrats. Among religious groups, white evangelical Protestants had the highest support—74%. For the rest of the report, visit: http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/

PRIVACY INTERNATIONAL’S ANNUAL REPORT ON U.S. RELEASED

Privacy International (PI) is a human rights group formed in 1990 as a watchdog on surveillance and privacy invasions by governments and corporations. PI is based in London, England, and has an office in Washington, D.C. We have campaigned across the world to protect people against intrusion by governments and corporations that seek to erode this fragile right. We believe that privacy forms part of the bedrock of freedoms, and our goal has always been to use every means to preserve it. The Privacy International Annual report for the US is at http://www.privacyinternational.org/article.shtml?cmd=x-347-559478

Submitted by Chris Delacruz

FRESH MEDIA OFFERINGS TO CHECK OUT

TUNE IN TO THE PEACE AND JUSTICE RADIO NETWORK

Fear No Arts Media has launched a new internet radio station geared to activism and awareness. Commercial and corporate free, THE PEACE & JUSTICE RADIO NETWORK has been created with the hope of inspiring, promoting and motivating progressive change in the world. Talented DJ’s and an impressive library of old & new political music & poetry give the station a unique and entertaining feel.

In addition, PJRN’s news line-up features the best of independent, unembedded programming, to include Democracy Now with Amy Goodman, Free Speech Radio News, Anti War News, Prison Radio News, Palestine Today, Prensa Latina, reports from National peace & justice organizations, political action announcements, and independent documentary reports.

Go to www.fearnoarts.com click on "Listen Now" and tune in to The Revolution on The Peace & Justice Radio Network!
BOOK BY FAYETTEVILLE AUTHOR AND ACTIVIST CORALIE KOONCE

NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

*MODELS, MYTHS and MUDDLES*, by Coralie Koonce, is now available online from Nightbird Books, Barnes and Noble, Amazon, and Target. These booksellers would welcome a critical review of the book to put on their sites.

The author will be conducting a book-signing at Nightbird Books, Old Mill Building, Corner of School and 6th Streets, Fayetteville on the evening of February 2.

*MODELS, MYTHS and MUDDLES* is the first of three books in the series "Thinking Toward Survival." The human species now faces more than one self-created dangers to our continued existence. Our thinking so far isn’t up to the challenge. Yet much of the damage we have done can be undone. *MODELS, MYTHS AND MUDDLES* presents ways of thinking and being---from critical thinking to species consciousness---that could transform the human species at this transition place. For more information about *MODELS, MYTHS and MUDDLES* go to:

[www.outskirtspress.com/modelsmythsandmuddles](http://www.outskirtspress.com/modelsmythsandmuddles)

If after reading *MODELS, MYTHS and MUDDLES* you have a question or comment, please send it to this address: modelsmyths_muddles@yahoo.com

THE 26TH OMNI BIBLIOGRAPHY NOW AVAILABLE ON WEB SITE.

The 26 OMNI bibliography on nonviolence, world peace, human rights, social and economic justice, and environment and species is now available on OMNI’s web site under “periodicals,” dated January 2. Two themes, in particular, are addressed: victims of US depredations and hope for change. Compiled by Dick Bennett.

THE STORY OF STUFF IS WORTH VIEWING

Click on this web site to get the full picture of "stuff" - how we get it, how we use it, where it goes: [http://www.storyofstuff.com](http://www.storyofstuff.com)

**COMPILATION OF WORLD-CHANGING BOOKS**

**Books that Will Change the World**

By Rebecca Solnit, [Tomdispatch.com](http://www.tomdispatch.com)

Twelve authors on war and peace, dissent, the environment and the empowerment of the poor provide inspiration to transform the world in 2008. [Read more Â»](http://www.tomdispatch.com/screenshots/01/2008/01222008/01222008.html)
BOOKS RECOGNIZING THE NECESSITY OF DISSENT

--Ann Wright and Susan Dixon, *Dissent: Voices of Conscience* 2007. The subject is dissenters against the Iraq war, and the book is packed with stories about these heroes. Call your bookstore to see if a copy is available, and order if necessary.

NEW FILM ON ENVIRONMENT


LOOK WHAT WE’VE BEEN UP TO – HAPPENINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED

HERE WE GO A-CAROLING

Still on the Hill (Kelly and Donna) led a group of Omni members and friends to Nursing and Rehab Centers on Christmas Eve. The motley crew of troubadours enjoyed singing as much as the patients and residents enjoyed listening, and joining in. Lots of smiles and hugs to share. To see the rest of the caroling photos, visit:

http://www.flickr.com/photos/7295307@N02/sets/72157600329887508/

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS

Here is a link to a slideshow of photos from various OMNI folks.
http://omni-slideshow.blogspot.com/

Please note: If you click on a photo, you will get some info about the photo.
If you move your mouse near the top of the photos, some control buttons will appear to pause, resume and adjust the speed of the slideshow.
Link Carries Interactive Calendar of Events in Northwest Arkansas—

http://northwestarkansasevents.blogspot.com/

· Fayetteville Society of Friends (a.k.a. the Quaker...  
· Northwest Arkansas Sustainability Center  
· Northwest Arkansas Buddhists  
· Omni Center for Peace, Justice and Ecology  
· Interfaith and Astronomical  
· Combined Northwest Arkansas Event Calendar

Original and gathered articles from Dick Bennett are at

http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/

Mike Tramill has an email network (list) on political issues, including the latest developments on possible war or invasion with Iran. You may contact Mike at wheeler65@gmail.com if you want to be on the list.

Richard Drake continues his Fayetteville blog, street jazz, at
http://www.arktimes.com/blogs/streetjazz/

Fayetteville Freethinkers website/forums can be found at
http://fayfreethinkers.com/forums/

CASUALTIES IN IRAQ

The Human Cost of Occupation
Edited by Margaret Griffis :: Contact

American Military Casualties in Iraq

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>In Combat</th>
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American Deaths
Since war began (3/19/03): 3909 3203
Since "Mission Accomplished" (5/1/03) (the list) 3770 3095
Since Capture of Saddam (12/13/03): 3448 2897
Since Handover (6/29/04): 3050 2570
Since Election (1/31/05): 2472 2307
American Wounded
Total Wounded: Official 28822
Estimated 23000 - 100000

Latest Fatality Jan. 5, 2008
Page last updated 01/5/08 10:40 pm EDT

IRAQI CIVILIAN BODY COUNT
Civilians reported killed by military intervention in Iraq

MIN. MAX.
80,330 87,741

Source of Iraqi Civilian Body Count: http://www.iraqbodycount.net/

*A body count of Iraqi civilian deaths was published in the medical journal The Lancet last year; its estimate was 600,000 (min) to 650,000 (max).

Cost of the War in Iraq
$483,000,000,000 and counting

Source of Cost of War: http://nationalpriorities.org

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. Fax: 479-725-0408, 213 W. Monroe, Suite K, 72745. Stacy McLure, Deputy Chief of Staff (STACEY.MCCLURE@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV) Web site (with contact link): http://www.boozman.house.gov/ 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.
  