YOU'RE INVITED: 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 6:00p.m., program about 7:00p.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. We still need some food donations for Annual Meeting Dinner. If you can furnish a meat or vegetarian lasagna, loaves of garlic bread, or two dozen cookies, contact Mary V. Cochran DrMaryVC@aol.com or call 479-575-9302 to let Mary know what you can bring.

In order to respect the challenges faced by members with allergies, we will offer wheat-free chili as a dinner option, and we ask for your cooperation in making this event as scent free as possible.

Workshops scheduled include (Please note the updates):

**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. “Patrice has been a full time organic farmer for 10 years, following a 2 year apprenticeship. 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. He is married and has two children. For more info visit [http://www.foundationfarm.com/](http://www.foundationfarm.com/)

**Sensible Fayetteville – 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. Similar to the ordinance 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.

**Nonviolence in the Face of Fascism** - 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 then you might think.

**5th Anniversary of the Iraq War** - Oh No! Not Again! - We hoped it would never come to this, but we've been there a honking long time now. Would you like to help Omni plan and organize a fitting remembrance for the national imbroglio? Kelly Mulhollan will organize this session to begin planning a commemoration for the month of March.

**The Pitch Pit** - new thing at Annual Meeting

**Media Reform in Your Backyard** - Claire Detels, C.A.T. Omni Month in Review; Joe Newman, Omni Free Radio; Gerald Sloan, Video Underground; Larry Woodall, Rapid Responders. Learn about Omni’s alternative media sources, and how you can get involved in these exciting projects.

New to Annual Meeting: The **Pitch Pit**. Omni people are working on so many good things, and when there are so many great things happening, it’s really hard to choose just a few to focus on for Annual Meeting workshops. This year we'll have a "Pitch Pit." If you have a good project you want people to know about, make a large, sturdy, colorful...
poster about it. We’ll lean all the posters up around the fireplace pit (the sunken conversation space in the entrance of UCM), and encourage Annual Meeting goers to check them out before and after the Meeting. If you put space on your poster for people to sign up, you can get some feedback, and have a chance to visit with folks about your project. If you’re interested in the Pitch Pit and want more info, contact Susan at susanidlet@gmail.com.

Omni/Community Access Television (C.A.T.) Connections
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, 1/22 and 1/29 6:00 p.m. Democracy NOW!
- Thursdays, 1/24 and 1/31 6:00 p.m. Democracy NOW!
- Friday 1/25 and 2/1 6:00 p.m. Democracy NOW!
- Sunday 1/27 and 2/3 6:00 p.m. Democracy NOW!

Coming Soon: Omni Month in Review: Panel Discussions on a variety of current issues. Watch this space for details.
Free Speech TV (FSTV) sponsored by Omni - 3:00a.m. - 9:00a.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 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
Visit the Democracy Now Website to view:
Forums, Discussions, Events
- 1/21 1:55 am Impeachment Seminar/War Crimes
  12:00 pm Media Reform: Community Media Summit
  1:20 pm Omni Open Mic. December 2007
- 1/22 9:20 pm Impeachment Seminar/War Crimes
- 1/23 1:30 pm Omni Open Mic. December 2007
  9:30 pm Impeachment Seminar/War Crimes
- 1/25 12:00 pm Omni Open Mic. December 2007
  8:00 pm Media Reform: Community Media Summit
- 1/26 4:30 pm Omni Open Mic. December 2007
  8:30 pm Impeachment Seminar/War Crimes

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 5:00p.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 Mondays, and on Tuesdays from 12 noon - 1:30p.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 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 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. “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.
--January 22 - Roe v. Wade U.S. Supreme Court decision on abortion, 1973
--January 27 - Vietnam War ended, 1973
--January 30 - 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution (Abolition of Slavery) was passed in 1865
Mohandes Ghandi (India) assassinated, 1948

--February 1 - National Freedom Day: commemorates the 1865 abolition of slavery
--February 3 - 15th Amendment ratified by congress, 1870, guaranteeing African Americans the right to vote
--January 25, Friday, 6:00p.m., Omni Center Annual Membership Meeting (See top of newsletter)
--January 27, Sunday, 7:00p.m., Video Underground, Sicko - Michael Moore's documentary about our ailing health-care system. For more information, contact Gerald Sloan at 575-6302 or gsloan@uark.edu
For more about this film, go to http://www.sicko-themovie.com/
To see the schedule for the Video Underground film series, go to http://omni-vu-films.blogspot.com/
To learn more about the Omni Center for Peace website, go to http://omnicenter.org/

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 --February 2.

-----February 2, Saturday, 10:00a.m., Rapid Response Writers, Fayetteville Public Library - For our February 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 at 479-582-2291 or at stillonthehill@sbcglobal.net
February 12, Tuesday, 7:00p.m., OMNI BOOK FORUM - at Jo Bennett’s, 2582 Jimmie Ave (Off of Township, above College Ave and Day Inn, 5th house on left). We will discuss Marjorie Cohn’s Cowboy Republic: Six Ways the Bush Gang Has Defied the Law. Join the panel. Contact Addie Adamson: aadamson@uark.edu

Sunday, February 17, 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.

February 21, 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

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS---UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

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 28, Monday, 5:00p.m., State of the Union Demonstration - The Green Party of Washington County is calling for a DEMONSTRATION on Monday, January 28, 2008 on the occasion of the president’s State of the Union address. We will be in front of the Federal Building on the sidewalk starting after 5:00p.m. The themes for the DEMONSTRATION are 1) Stop the War  2) Impeach Bush  3) Fight Global Warming. We ask that everyone who is angry and unhappy about the state of our Union come out to our DEMONSTRATION and bring a sign that they made for the event. Old signs can be re-used if they are still relevant, and sadly, I’m sure that many will be, so let’s break them out again and stand for Peace, Liberty and Justice. Rebekah Kennedy, Green Party candidate for U S Senate, will speak and others will also have an opportunity to speak.

January 28, Monday, 11:30a.m., Clarion Inn, Benton County Democratic Women - Dr. Claire Detels will be guest speaker. She will discuss the erosion of our Bill of Rights. (You need to make a reservation by January 23 (Call Sharon Carter at (479) 464-7531). Claire is a regular contributor to OMNI’s Book Sampler and this month will begin OMNI’s Month in Review on C.A.T.

January 29, Tuesday, 6:30p.m., 3rd Annual Thomas Paine Day Dinner, Golden Corral Restaurant, Fayetteville- Rep. Lindsley Smith will be the guest speaker at this event commemorating Thomas Paine (1737-1809) as a “Genius,” “Innovator,” “Liberator,” and a “Universal Humanitarian” by his authoring Common Sense, The Crisis, Rights of Man and Age of Reason and as the “Father of The American Revolution.” “How many Americans citizens know that Tom Paine inspired the Declaration of Independence? How many know that he actually gave this country its name --- the United States of America?” -W. E. Woodward, Eminent Historian. Paine is an American hero who should be commemorated; a leader of the American Revolution; one of the Founding Fathers; peer of Washington, Madison, Franklin and Jefferson and was one of the most brilliant political philosophers of his time. Celebrate and help advance “HUMAN PROGRESS”. Come learn more of what is the “Mainspring of Human Progress”. For further information contact Jack 444-8149

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

---February 8, Friday, 6:30p.m., Evolution can UNITE the left and the right, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 901 W. Cleveland - On January 9, the Reverend Michael Dowd and his wife Connie Barlow appeared at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Michael is a former evangelical minister, and Connie is a long-time atheist. With evangelical fervor, Michael carries a message to both conservative Christians and liberal secular people that evolution carries with it seeds of hope for the human race and planet earth. He was also featured on KUAF’s Ozarks at Large on January 18-19.

As follow up to their inspiring talk, the UUFF Social Justice Committee purchased DVDs from Dowd/Barlow, and plans to hold a series of discussions on the topic that will be interesting to both people who heard Dowd speak, and people who now wish they had. Please join us for the first of these discussions on Friday, February 12, 6:30p.m. For more information, call Beverly Toll or Chava Schacter, btoll@hughes.net, 479-839-3238.

---February 11, Monday, 5:00p.m., The Devil Came on Horseback, a documentary exposing the genocide in Darfur, Union Ballroom - Presented by The University Programs Cultures and Concepts committee and Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND), the event will include a lecture on genocide featuring Samantha Power. The documentary film exposes the genocide raging in Darfur, Sudan as seen through the eyes of a former U.S. marine who returns home to make the story public. At 7:00p.m., Samantha Power, a Harvard Kennedy School of Government professor and a highly-respected journalist, will give an educating lecture on the relationship between the failures of foreign policy and genocide. She spent 2005 and 2006 working in the office of Senator Barack Obama and currently promoting her latest book, a political biography of Sergio Vieira de Mello, a United Nations official who was killed in Baghdad, Iraq. A Q&A session and a book signing will be held after the lecture. Also, there will also be an opportunity to contact your national representatives to ask them to take action on the genocide in Darfur.

--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=336863768

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

LOCALLY:

AFRIQUE AYA PERFORMANCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
The Afrique Aya Performance on January 24 has been moved to the Connections Lounge in the Student Union (between the old and new parts of the Union). Afrique Aya will perform a one-hour show on Thursday, January 24 at 7:00 pm. This event is part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration series.

For more information on Afrique Aya events and classes, go to www.afriqueaya.org
SUSTAINABILITY 101

On January 24, 6:30p.m., two local speakers will address sustainability in an accessible, friendly format. Sarah Lewis will give a presentation called "Sustaining Ecosystems." Sarah works with land developers to train staff about the benefits of Low-Impact Development techniques and sustainable construction methods that increase returns for investors. She is passionate and skilled at identifying and working through policy challenges that effect the arena were humans and the environment merge. Sarah Lewis consults businesses, non-profit organizations, government agencies and individuals in the areas of environmental education, ecosystem analysis and ecosystem valuation. Matthew Petty will define Sustainability and offer practical approaches in an innovative and visual presentation. If you’ve seen the word, but wondered what it really meant, come listen to his explanation. Matthew founded the NWA Sustainability Center, a local nonprofit that creates and implements models for making the transition to sustainability. The group focuses on education initiatives, using both formal institutions and non-formal tools to create momentum for innovation.  $5 BGSO members/$10 non-members

For more information, please contact: Sarah E. King, Director of Community Programs, Botanical Garden of the Ozarks 479-750-2620 sarahking@bgozarks.org, WWW.BGOZARKS.ORG

THE IRAQ SURGE ONE YEAR ON

Chris Toensing, Editor, Middle East Report will present a talk entitled “The Iraq Surge One Year On” at Giffels Auditorium, 1:30p.m. Monday January 28 Sponsored by the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies Free and open to the public.

Chris Toensing is editor of Middle East Report (www.merip.org), an independent quarterly journal that provides news and perspectives about the Middle East not available from mainstream news sources. Toensing has written for the Los Angeles Times, The Nation, The Progressive and other US newspapers and magazines, and has appeared hundreds of times on radio and TV programs to discuss Middle East politics. He holds an MA in Near Eastern Studies from Princeton University.

THE TELECOMM BOARD FORMING NEW COMMITTEE

The Telecomm Board is forming a committee on CAT performance reporting. In addition to Telecomm Board, Government Channel, and C.A.T. representatives, members of the public with no ties to the above bodies are invited to participate. The committee chair is Angie Graves, of the Telecomm Board. All who might wish to participate should email her at: Angie.Graves@acxiom.com

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR IMPEACHMENT INTRODUCED TO ASG SENATE FAYETTEVILLE, AR

A resolution calling for a referendum on impeachment of President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard B. Cheney was introduced to the Arkansas Student Government Senate Chair today.

The resolution, authored and introduced by Senator Abel Tomlinson and Jacob Holloway, calls for the ASG Senate to vote to support the sponsorship of a student referendum on impeachment of Bush and Cheney. If the referendum resolution is passed by the ASG Senate and supported by the student body, the resolution and a letter will be sent to Speaker of the House of Nancy Pelosi, House Judiciary Chairman John Conyers, Congressman John Boozman, Congressman Mike Ross, Congressman Marion Berry, and Congressman Vic Snyder urging them to initiate impeachment proceedings.

The charges in the resolution against Bush and Cheney include misleading Congress and the American public by manipulating intelligence to justify an illegal "war of aggression" against Iraq, authorizing illegal warrantless wiretapping of the computers and telephones of all Americans, authorizing the use of torture, and conspiracy to strip Americans of Constitutional rights by ordering unreasonable searches and seizures, indefinite detentions without access to legal counsel, without charge and without opportunity to appear before a civil judicial officer to challenge the detention based merely on discretionary designation by the President of any U.S. citizen as an "enemy combatant". All charges of which are in violation of numerous national and international laws.

The resolution argues that these violations of laws are indeed harmful to all American citizens including students at the University of Arkansas. The direct cost of the war is currently at approximately $500 billion and indirect costs such as for long-term healthcare and disability for wounded troops and added interest to our national debt entail hundreds of billions more. This money could have been spent providing massive increases in higher education funding.
The national security interests of all American citizens including U of A students has also been severely harmed by handicapping our military readiness due to overextension and damaged recruitment capability, and from decades of expected political and security blowback created by the war. Furthermore, the illegal war and human rights abuses authorized by the administration, such as torture, have contributed to the fueling of global hatred toward Americans and making it far more difficult for students to travel abroad in peace and safety. Contact: Abel Tomlinson ASG Senator (479) 799-1492 atomlin@uark.edu

WINTER SESSION OF THE EVERYONE CAN SING COMMUNITY CHOIR BEGINS
Winter Session of the Everyone Can Sing Community Choir began on Thursday, January 17. The Choir meets from 7:00 to 8:45p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church Witherspoon Activity Center, 695 Calvin St., Fayetteville (one block north of the jog at Mission and Old Wire). The Activity Center is on the southwest corner of the church complex. A message from Choir Director Nancy Maier states: “I hope everyone is looking forward to getting together and singing. I know I certainly am! It’s a great time of year to warm our souls by creating harmony and learning some new songs which connect us to each other and to many cultures around the world. My plan for this session is to take the songs a step beyond where we have taken them. So where will that be? Come and see.

I want to encourage all new singers to join us. We have a fun time in a relaxed setting. You will learn about listening, allowing your breath to be free, and trusting your heart and your voice. And you are sure to find some laughter and friendship amid all the singing.

So try it out. The first two meetings of the choir are free. The fee for the 14-week session (through April) is $96, or $8 per meeting. There are two scholarships available and a sliding scale is also available. Paying by the month is fine.

We will meet every Thursday through April. I plan for us to have a concert in May.”

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

MASKS FOR CHANGE
WITH JO ANNE KAMINSKY
The 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 information on our website which is: www.acpj.org

THE 2008 ANNUAL CAT AWARDS!

Here is an opportunity to honor our producer’s accomplishments and a great reason to host a snazzy shin-dig in our CAT Studio for our Spring Fundraiser.

Any CAT or LOCAL producer who aired a program on CAT in 2007 is eligible to submit a program(s) for a chance at fame and a fabulous “trophy”. All submissions must be accompanied by an official entry form(s) and $10 for each program submitted. The DEADLINE to enter is SATURDAY, MARCH 1st. This is a hard deadline!

CATegories this year include: Information, Religious, Current Events, Entertainment, Children, Education, Music, Art, Adult, and Best Series.

The FAT CAT AWARDS CEREMONY will be held FRIDAY, MARCH 28th at 6:00p.m. in the CAT STUDIO.

Tickets for the event are $25 in advance and $30 at the door. (You do not have to be present to win – but it’s more fun!)

If you are interested in being a judge for the event and have NOT submitted a program, please contact CAT.

NEW in 2008! IS THE CAT PROMO CONTEST! 30 seconds to 3 minutes to Promote YOUR CAT!

$100 CASH PRIZE / $10 to enter Deadline to enter: Saturday, MARCH 15. Contact CAT for Official Guidelines and Entry Form (479) 444-3433

HISTORIANS AGAINST THE WAR NATIONAL CONFERENCE APRIL 11-13

The conference at Georgia State University’s downtown Atlanta campus begins on Friday evening April 11 with a keynote speech by Bill Fletcher Jr., longtime activist in the labor and black freedom movements who has been president of the TransAfrica Forum and education director of the national AFL-CIO. We still don’t know if Naomi Klein, author of No Logo and The Shock Doctrine, will be able to come but if she can she will also speak as part of the Friday evening program.

A second keynote session, 5:00 - 6:45 pm on Saturday, will feature Middle East historians Zachary Lockman of NYU, president of the Middle East Studies Association 2006-2007, and Dina Rizk Khoury, Iraq historian at George Washington University.

There will be over twenty panels, roundtables, and workshops, distributed among four time slots: one Saturday morning, two Saturday afternoon, and one Sunday morning. The titles are listed below; for more information, see the conference web site: http://www.historiansagainstwar.org/hawconf (click on “Sessions”). We don’t yet have an exact time schedule but are working on it and will post it soon.

Information on registering and on hotel accommodations is also on the web site. The registration fee ($40 full, $25 student/low-income) includes lunch on Saturday and coffee, fruit, and pastries Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Even if you aren’t able to come yourself, we would very much appreciate your helping to spread the word. The web site has a link to a flyer (in pdf format) advertising the conference. If you could download and print a few copies, either to share with friends or to post on appropriate bulletin boards, it would be very helpful. Thanks for any help!

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](http://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](mailto:Jack@LittleRockFilmFestival.org).

### 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 is 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](http://www.omnicenter.org)). Also contact the coordinators: Lynda Haley-Brothers, Washington County ([teacherhuman@cox.net](mailto:teacherhuman@cox.net)) and Carole Westby, Benton County ([westbyforhouse98@cox.net](mailto:westbyforhouse98@cox.net)).

### NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

**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/wintersoldierstatementofsupport

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
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.

COMPIlATION OF WORLD-CHANGING BOOKS OFFERED

Books that Will Change the World
By Rebecca Solnit, 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»

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

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.

LOCAL CONNECTIONS
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/
American Military Casualties in Iraq

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>In Combat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Since war began (3/19/03)</td>
<td>3927</td>
<td>3219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Since &quot;Mission Accomplished&quot; (5/1/03) (the list)</td>
<td>3788</td>
<td>3111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Since Capture of Saddam (12/13/03):</td>
<td>3466</td>
<td>2913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Since Handover (6/29/04):</td>
<td>3068</td>
<td>2586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Since Election (1/31/05):</td>
<td>2490</td>
<td>2323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>American Wounded</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Wounded:</strong></td>
<td>28870</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Estimated</strong></td>
<td>23000 - 100000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Latest Fatality Jan. 18, 2008

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://www.pryor.senate.gov); [http://pryor.senate.gov/contact/](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](mailto:STACEY.McCLURE@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV)) Web site (with contact link): [http://www.boozman.house.gov/](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.