OMNI CENTER---UPCOMING EVENTS, MEETINGS and CALENDAR

SPECIAL MESSAGES

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THE ANNUAL OMNI CENTER PEACE GARDENS TOUR
SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 10A.M. – 3P.M.

Six gardens ranging from a tiny flower-filled downtown front yard, to a bamboo grove garden, to a country wildlife habitat will be featured. Each unique garden is the creation of the gardener's own hands, and dedicated to peace and sustainability. Tour tickets are $10 each and the ticket holder can visit any or all of the featured gardens. Carpooling is heartily encouraged.

The Peace Gardens tour is a fundraiser for the Omni Center, which promotes a culture of peace, justice and ecology. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Omni table at the Fayetteville Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings or by sending your check for $10 to OMNI, 278 Wolfe Lane, Farmington, 27730. Tickets may be purchased at any of the gardens on the day of the tour. To download map and brochure (to come soon) go to http://peacegardens.blogspot.com/

In addition to the beautiful flowers, shrubs, and trees, each gardener will offer a special additional feature, such as food, music, drink, sculpture, or sustainable design information. The six gardens in the 2008 Tour are at the homes of Emily Kaitz, Candy Clark and Teddy Cardwell, Hamsa and Moshe Newmark, Nancy Maier, Mendy Knott and Leigh Wilkerson, and Kathy Boyd.

Come, enjoy the day with these very special gardens and others dedicated to a culture of peace. Watch for our posters and flyers and other advertising for directions. For more information, see www.omnicenter.org and http://peacegardens.blogspot.com. To view an interactive map of tour locations, visit http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?hl=en&client=news&ie=UTF8&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=107917042384490530765.00044c40396efb37b9d8e5

Contact:
Dick Bennett, Omni Peace Gardens Coordinator. Tel. 479-442-4600 or email jbennet@uark.edu, or Leigh Wilkerson, Peace Garden Tour Participant. Tel. 479-582-9209 or email wilkerson.leigh@gmail.com (Preview Larrapin Garden at http://larrapin.blogspot.com)

Submitted by Leigh Wilkinson

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO STAFF OMNI TABLE AT FARMER’S MARKET?

A Message from Barbara Jaquish:

Here's how I look at it: By putting up this table, we are offering people who are concerned about the direction of this country - and there are many of us - a way to express their concern. Not everyone wants to sign every petition, but many people want to sign at least one petition. And there are a few each week who are interested in other OMNI activities - some take brochures and others ask about the time and place of our events. (Which reminds me - organizers of OMNI events need to make sure that the table has flyers, even the small, quarter-page sized flyers, to give to people who are interested). And the few people who disagree are almost always civil about it. We have conversations, not hostile exchanges. I know that dealing with disagreement is uncomfortable for some people, but let's not confuse disagreement with hostility. I have spent a lot of time at these tables over the last few years, and I can count very few hostile people, none this year.
Also, the table is not only about soliciting for petitions. If we have flyers about events, we can offer the flyers. We also offer people the OMNI stickers, and it is a wonderful message to all who attend Farmers Market to see person after person wearing an OMNI dove. Other people are interested in the bumper stickers.

Overall, the tabling experience is one of affirmation about our neighbors. I have had wonderful conversations with people, conversations that remind me how many people share my concerns about our world. It is so heartening to hand out OMNI dove stickers to small children while their parents sign petitions or to help a veteran find a “Veterans for Peace” bumper sticker. The Farmer’s Market table is the face of OMNI for many people, and it is a non-threatening, friendly way to investigate OMNI. I hope OMNI members will support this public interaction -- by volunteering to staff. If you’d like more information or to volunteer, contact Barbara Jaquish jaquish@uark.edu (479) 582-5495

OMNI MONTH IN REVIEW - QUALITY TELEVISION

If you haven't seen Omni Month in Review on Community Access Television (Channel 18), you need to treat yourself to an hour of thought provoking discussion about current events with intelligent, articulate panel members and moderator Claire Detels who keeps the topics interesting, and the talk flowing. You can catch the May edition live on Wednesday, May 28, 7-8 p.m. Panelists for the May Omni Month in Review are Dick Bennett, Art Hobson, Coralie Koonce, Roger Gross, and Gerry Sloan. The special focus will be movies about the Iraq war, dramas and documentaries.

If you missed seeing the April edition live, it will be repeated Sundays, May 18 and 25 from 12:30-1:30p.m. on Channel 18 with the special focus on Earth Day discussed by panelists Art Hobson, Cliff Hughes, Coralie Koonce and Dick Bennett.

(Omni C.A.T. Connection Information has been moved and is with media information)

OMNI CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

-- August 2, 10:30a.m., Omni Rapid Responders, Fayetteville Public Library
Do you read articles and editorials in area newspapers and think, “Someone needs to answer that letter with the facts?” Rapid Responders do just that, and they can always use more volunteers to write logical, articulate letters to the editor.

-- August 15, Thursday, 5:30p.m. Potluck, 6:00p.m. - Omni Steering Committee Meeting, Deep End of United Campus Ministries, 902 W. Maple, Fayetteville, AR

-- August 17, Sunday, 6:30P.M. HOWL: Women’s Open Mic at Nightbird Books, Old Mill Building, Corner of School and 6th Streets, Fayetteville - HOWL happens the third Sunday of each month at Nightbird Bookstore. At HOWL, women are invited to read poems (their own or another 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.

-- August 20, Friday, 6:30p.m. Screening of “Women in the World: Iraq” at Woman’s University Club
Watch the film on women and war at the University Club. This film shows the brave women who risk their lives to help women and children in war-torn Iraq.

-- August 23, Tuesday, 7:30p.m. Soldier’s Field, Women’s Tennis Tournament, Athletic Fields, Arkansas State University
This event is a fundraiser for a local women’s group. It features tennis and other activities.

-- August 29, Monday, 7p.m. Nightbird Books, Howl Reader’s Meetup
This event is a monthly meet-up for writers to read their work. 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.

For more information, contact Edrene McKay at EdreneMcKay@cox.net or 479-855-6836.
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS---UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

--August 30, Saturday, 2:00p.m.,
Fayetteville Free Thinkers, Fayetteville
Public Library

Information regarding our past meetings and future meetings can be read in our forum, here:
http://fayfreethinkers.com/forums/viewforum.php?f=1

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

(New Items will have Green Heading)

SENSIBLE FAYETTEVILLE NEEDS YOUR HELP
Sensible Fayetteville needs your help collecting signatures in May, June, and July to make misdemeanor amounts of marijuana a lower priority for Fayetteville Police. Sensible Fayetteville currently has around half of the 7000 required signatures needed to be on the ballot. Please consider collecting signatures this summer. Workers will receive $1.00 per signature. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Ryan at 479-685-4348. To learn more about Sensible Fayetteville, visit www.sensiblefayetteville.com

TABLE AT FARMER'S MARKET: IT'S FUN
If you haven't volunteered, yet, get in on the fun. You'll have a chance to chat with old friends, make new ones, sell bumper stickers, buttons and peace poles and distribute free educational literature, recruit new Omni members. If you have an upcoming Omni event, this is where you can spend some time publicizing it. Come down, hand out flyers, talk to people about your event.

Farmer's market overflows with community, energy, music and joy. Spend some time there this summer by staffing the Omni Table. If you'd like more information or to volunteer, contact Barbara Jaquish jaquish@uark.edu (479) 582-5495 If you've already signed up to work, we thank you. (See message from Barbara Jaquish at top of Newsletter)

OMNI NEEDS A COUNTER-RECRUITING COORDINATOR
"I believe the best chance we have of keeping the current wars from eclipsing the 10-year length of Vietnam would be if groups put much more emphasis on cutting off the flow of human resources, i.e., through counter-recruitment work and school demilitarization work. That’s something that the media, Congress and the next president would not be able to ignore...." Rick Jahnkow, Coord., Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities (YANO). Read his essay: http://www.projectyano.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=40&Itemid=1

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Gladys Tiffany 973-9049 or gladystiffany@yahoo.com

CARBON CAPS TASK FORCE NEWSLETTER ON THE OMNI WEBSITE
Visit www.omnicenter.org to read this colorful, informative newsletter, 350 PPM

BOOK FORUM, Building a Culture of Peace by We, the People

Sept. 12, Friday, 6:30 p.m. Books on Global Heating, Climate Disruption: HEAT, SIX DEGREES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE, CARBON FREE AND
NUCLEAR FREE. These books offer the reality needed to counter the greenwashing now pervading US corporate and government propaganda.

NEW FORMAT:
In the past we have focused on one book in the Book Forums. This Forum experiments with a discussion of several books, with at least one panelist familiar with at least one of the books. A format of a few basic questions we agree on in advance, with each person briefly telling what his/her book has to say on the topics, would seem to be appropriate, keeping focus on the books, providing the audience with reliable information from different perspectives. Then turning to audience questions/comments, for a maximum of an hour and a half.

PAT CARR WRITING WORKSHOPS

Author Pat Carr will be conducting writing workshops each of the five Sundays in August 2008, 1 - 4 p.m. in St. Paul's Episcopal Church Library, 224 N. East St. (corner of Dickson and East), Fayetteville (limited parking on East Street, lot in the back).

Pat Carr has written twelve books of fiction, including *The Women in the Mirror*, winner of the Iowa Short Fiction Award; *If We Must Die*, a Young Adult novel, is about the race riots in Tulsa in 1921, told from the point of view of a young teacher. TCU Press published her Young Adult novel about Pancho Villa, *Border Ransom*, in 2005. Recently, the University of Arkansas Press published a book of her short stories, *The Death of a Confederate Colonel*. Critics note it "triumphs in its portrayal of desperate circumstances."

Participants are asked to make a $10 donation to St. Paul's for each session attended. For more information, please contact June B. Jefferson, jjefferson@arkansasusa.com.

NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY

RECRUITER ABUSE HELP HOTLINE
The National Youth and Militarism Recruiter Abuse Hotline: 1-877-688-6881. Started by the AFSC.

RESISTING MILITARIZING OF OUR SCHOOLS
"DMZ: A Guide to Taking Your School Back from the Military." To order: www.warresisters.org or email wrl@warresisters.org, or www.warresisters.org/dmz

WHAT'S GOING ON?—NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY
NEW ITEMS IN GREEN
UNION FOR RADICAL POLITICAL ECONOMICS SUMMER CONFERENCE


SEPTEMBER 21 UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

RECRUITER ABUSE HELP HOTLINE
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RESISTING MILITARIZING OF OUR SCHOOLS
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LOOK WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO
HAPPENINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED

RAPID RESPONSE WRITERS

RRW met at noon July 26 for lunch at Ozark Mt. Smokehouse on Dickson to congratulate our elected officials: State Representative Lindsley Smith, Mayor John Gray, and Barbara Fitzpatrick (running unopposed for Justice of the Peace). Thirteen people filled the long table: Larry Woodall (coordinator), Judith Pepper, Coralie Koonce, Carl Barnwell, George Patterson, Dave Hunter, Jon Zimmer, John Gray, Henry Griffith, Dick Bennett, Barbara Fitzpatrick, Lindsley and Steve Smith. Lioneld Jordan dropped by.

Lindsley described the beginning of her first term learning legislative proposals and the established "old boy" order. She praised the support RRW letter writers gave and give to progressive ideas and stressed the importance of perseverance.

John Gray described his accidental entrance into official politics after being challenged to turn talk into action, and as with Lindsley confronted by the local old boy establishment. He ran
on a main issue: planning the future of Greenland to control mindless growth. With Lindsley he emphasized sticking to your principles.

Barbara is another accidental politician now fully engaged, attending Quorum Court meetings months before her January inauguration as JP. Among her special interests is watershed protection against sprawl. A very positive luncheon!

Submitted by Dick Bennett

STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN: MOVIES AND DVDS

DOCUMENTARY FILMS ABOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS

"Conviction," a 48 min. dvd doc. about three Dominican nuns sentenced to Federal Prison for their nonviolent protest at a Minuteman III missile site in Colorado. The film raises the role of International Law in US courts.

"Walking for Peace," a 29-min. film on the journey of a group of people who walked 300 miles from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation to Bangor Submarine Base to call for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Submitted by Dick Bennett jbennet@uark.edu

WEBSITES AND LOCAL CONNECTIONS

WEBSITES FOR SOLAR, WIND, RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

IN ARKARKANSAS

www.arkansasrenewableenergy.org/

ArkansasRenewableEnergy.org is your Internet portal for information on solar, geothermal, and other renewable energy technologies in Arkansas!

Submitted by Chris Delacruz

LOCAL CONNECTIONS

Email your Public Service Announcements 2 weeks in advance to KUAF radio’s Pete Hartman at phartma@uark.edu. PSAs should be about 15 seconds in length.

Submitted by Chris Delacruz

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/

From Sidney Burris:
Modern & Contemporary Poetry: www.readwrite.typepad.com/poetry
Mindspace: www.readwrite.typepad.com/meditation
Tibetspace: www.readwrite.typepad.com/artibet
Institute website: www.artibet.com

MNI/COMMUNITY ACCESS TELEVISION (C.A.T.) CONNECTIONS
www.catfayetteville.com

OMNI Month In Review:

Omni Month in Review with Moderator Claire Detels can be watched live on Wednesday, August 27; the repeats will be thru the month on Sunday at 12:30. Repeats of July’s OMIR can be viewed on Sundays, August 3, August 10.

Democracy NOW! Schedule:

Tuesday, 7/29, 8/5  6:00p.m.  Democracy NOW!
Thursday, 7/30, 8/7  6:00p.m.  Democracy NOW!
Friday, 8/1, 8/8  6:00p.m.  Democracy NOW!
Sunday, 8/3, 8/10  6:00p.m.  Democracy NOW!

Free Speech TV (FSTV) sponsored by Omni - 3:00a.m. - 9:00a.m. - FSTV continues its cutting edge challenges, pushing us to think. Ecosocialism or Barbarism by Joel Kovel (2007), a Marxist analysis of capitalism, was aired June 25. Accumulation, competition, creation of surplus value, increasing workers’ productivity, commodifying everything, overproduction, perpetual expansion of consumption by advertising equals an inherently unsustainable system. www.freespeechtv.com Omni Center is pleased to provide FSTV to our local Community Access Television

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:

Omni Book Samplers:
Book Samplers give a five minute book report or read a five minute excerpt from a book. If you like to read and would like to share and encourage others to read books that you find informative and interesting, please volunteer to be a Book Sampler. Contact: Dick Bennett jbennet@uark.edu

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: 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m., 11:00 p.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, 9:00 p.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

CASUALTIES IN IRAQ

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

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Latest Fatality May 15, 2008
Page last updated 05/16/08 2:59 pm EDT

IRAQI CIVILIAN BODY COUNT

 Civilians reported killed by military intervention in Iraq

MIN.       MAX.
83,687     91,344

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* in 2006; its estimate at that time was 600,000 (min) to 650,000 (max). Some sources estimate the death toll of civilian deaths today is over 1,000,000
Cost of the War in Iraq

$520,000,000,000 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

• Senator Blanche Lincoln: Web Site (they have contact links): www.lincoln.senate.gov;
    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
  · Main District Office: 500 Pres. Clinton Ave., Suite 401, Little Rock, AR 72201
    Phone: (501) 324-6336 Fax: (501) 324-5320

• Congressman John Boozman, District 3, 12 counties from Benton to Washington
  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.
  DC address: 1708 Longworth House Office Bldng., Washington, DC 20515; 202-225-4301.