OMNI in Pictures!

OMNI Benefit Concert!
Claire Detels concert in support of OMNI Center
“Great African American Composers”
Friday, October 30th 2009
6:30 social hour, 7:00 concert
at the home of Adella and Gary Gray
Mission Blvd east to N. Starr Dr, turn right
1681 N. Starr Drive

On October 24, people in 181 countries came together for the most widespread day of environmental action in the planet's history. At over 5200 events around the world, people gathered to call for strong action and bold leadership on the climate crisis.” OMNI members were part of this 120+ parade down Dickson and Block St. to the square, where belly dancers, singers, drummers, and speakers joined together with one message: 350! This is the safe upper limit of CO2 in the atmosphere. For more information, go to: www.350.org

Halloween Moving Day!
Saturday, October 31st
8:30 AM—1:00 PM
Relocate things from UCM office to Bennett Community Center with the help of a giant truck courtesy of Karen Takemoto & the Assisted Living Center. Come help when you can, and enjoy our pumpkin cookies!


OMNI TLC youth learn about the power of sun-cookers at a workshop held Sunday, October 18th at OMNI’s new home!

RIGHT: In the OMNI house, people gather to watch Money-Driven Medicine. Video Underground is back!

You Are OMNI!
Do you want to see OMNI be pro-peace, pro-justice, and pro-ecology? Your voice needs to be heard! Contact OMNI with your ideas, opinions, and suggestions on topics that are important to you and find out about groups and programs within OMNI that can help you reach your goals for a more peaceful, just, and sustainable world. There are several ways you can do this. Post on Facebook, call OMNI's office (479) 935-4422, contact OMNI leadership (gladystiffany@yahoo.com) send an e-mail to the newsletter (amandabancroft@gmail.com) or in November visit the OMNI Center at 3274 Lee St. We're waiting for your direction and would like your leadership.
MISSION STATEMENT

OMNI Center for Peace, Justice, and Ecology educates and empowers people to actively build a non-violent, sustainable, and just world.

OMNI * INMOtion

OMNI Matters
OMNI in Pictures!!!
OMNI Benefit Concert
OMNI Move-In Day Halloween

Feature Article
Art Provides a Way by Shelley Buonaiuto

Peace INMOtion
Awakening Wisdom & Compassion Training
Help Honduras: Witness for Peace
Canada Department of Peace Legislation
Afghanistan Book Forum

Justice INMOtion
Community Time Bank Meeting
Record OMNI’s History
Fair Trade for OMNI Fundraiser
Family Economic Security Conference

Ecology INMOtion
Calvin & Hobbes Comic
Community Garden Project
Eat Green this Thanksgiving
Green Faith Alliance

Smorgasbord!
The OMNI Center Calendar is now online!
According to David Bohm, our thoughts are creating our world. But our thoughts are fragmented, we divide each other up according to categories, nations, class, sex, race, religion, we take these divisions as actualities rather than as products of thought and we fight each other based on sets of erroneous beliefs. This has created grave problems we must fix to survive. What should we do? If we are artists, we may ask how can I make art that contributes in some way to peace, justice, community, sustainability. Or we may not relate to political activism at all, but we are compelled to express what we are feeling in some medium. I think art is inherently activist, if it is a free expression. Some aspects of art that I consider supremely valuable are:

i. Art is a means to explore, and bring to light, our own shadows and projections.

ii. Art develops our power to see, externally and internally. Externally we strive to see truthfully, internally we hope to see honestly. Paul Klee said “Art does not reproduce what we see, rather it makes us see.”

iii. The source of art is the creative intuitive spirit. An artist learns to dance with this spirit, letting it take the lead, succumbing to it in a sort of balance with the demands of the material and the goal of the original conception.

iv. An artist is responsible for completing the work. No one else can design it or execute it. It comes from an experience of one’s own, and from scratch, that experience is expressed.

v. Art can express the soul of the person and of the community, and hold power either as a sacred object, or as an expression of a culture, the cosmology, the paradigm, the struggles, agonies, joys and insights of a period.

vi. The artist perceives and expresses beauty.

Artists, in creating our visions, need to examine our own assumptions and our cultural assumptions. For example, I’ve been studying our economic system. We all use money, but how often do we recognize that money is not value-neutral? Do we recognize how we have accepted the assumption of the scarcity of money for which we must compete and with this mentality, we hoard and save for ourselves, arm ourselves, and create a self-fulfilling prophecy? What is required is not just a protest, but an entirely new vision of community living in plenty, where we care for each other and exchange our goods and services among ourselves, finding creative ways to do it without contributing to a failing system. Incidentally, Benjamin Barber, in an article about creating a new economics, among other things, calls for renewed funding for the arts. When we practice being alert to our thoughts and preconceptions, at times it seems like these disappear and we’re able to open, as into a wide field. We relax into awareness, into perception of perception, and thoughts can be seen as drifting through this field. It is not so much to observe the thought, as to allow the existence of the observer. When this blends with a work of art, be it a bowl, a shawl or a wooden box, it is perceptible. Or the artist, coming also from a place of deep caring, makes art to bring attention to a specific cause. I think we have to be careful, when doing this, that it isn’t a work of propaganda, as was done with so much Nazi and Communist art. Art must be spiritually free. Kathe Kollwitz’s prints of suffering during the wars, Dorothea Lange’s photographs of the depression. Picasso’s Guernica, Goya’s paintings of war, novels like Fahrenheit 451 and Orwell’s 1984 and Animal Farm, and music like Gorecki’s 3rd symphony, our local Greg Moore’s paintings of soldiers resisting deployment to Iraq and Hank Kaminsky’s peace fountain touch us, inform us, move us. Considering my own development as an activist and an artist, I seldom ever combined these two areas of my life in a direct way. In 1972 when I discovered sculpture, I wanted to capture the quality of being I saw in the Asian sculptures of Buddha. This central goal remained dominant as I began to sculpt ordinary people of diverse cultures in relationship with each other. As an activist, I began to appreciate the beauty and efficacy of dialogue. When our daughter and 3 other students were arrested at the high school for protesting the Iraq war, I worked with a group of mediators to create a public dialogue with the school administration, students and police. In these dialogues our daughter became friends with her arresting officer. During this time, as our country became increasingly bellicose, I began to work on a lifesize bust of two friends of mine, Martha, who had been a liberal journalist in Kansas during the McCarthy era, and Jetter, who with her husband had founded an NAACP chapter in Santa Fe. In the Capitol building in Santa Fe, where we lived for 23 years, there are two bronze busts of 19th century military heroes. They are separate and austere. I wanted my sculpture of two women of peace, with one’s arm about the other, to be placed across from those busts. When the piece was accepted, my request was granted. Though most of the other work is not activist in this way, I have been told that the work has had an affect on people’s lives. Once I got an email from a man who is an executive in an oil firm. He wrote me that when he saw the work, it made him realize how much his family meant to him. When what has been truly seen can be transmitted, the beauty of a chord, of a combination of colors, of geometric shapes that represent states of being, portrayals of our experience as humanity, all the multitudinous possibilities of expression, it may open in another also the power to truly see. And if we truly see, isn’t that love? And if we love, don’t we want to preserve and protect? And if we are contributing blindly to a system that is unsustainable, we have to acknowledge this and change course. Art provides a way.
Peace INMOtion

AWAKENING WISDOM AND COMPASSION

For the power of peace to touch every person, community and nation on this earth, it must radiate out from a profound peace within our own mind. The Bodhisattva Peace Training—developed by Tibetan meditation master H.E. Chagdud Tulku Rinpoche—makes accessible to people of all religions and walks of life profound methods of the Buddhist tradition for awakening the positive qualities of wisdom and compassion—the basis of enduring peace—inherent in each of us. Come join us! ~Bodhisattva Peace Training~ November 7&8 Katog Choling Retreat Center in Jasper, AR

Beautifully secluded in the Ozark Mountains! Cost: $95-$135 Includes food and lodging. No one will be turned away due to lack of funds. For more information about registration and the venue, Email: joanriback@gmail.com or LawsonLouanne@gmail.com or Call: Louanne at 501 765 3613 or Joan at 707 696-4990/870-446-2952

Hondurans struggling to restore their democracy need your help. Since the June 28 military coup forced their democratically-elected president from the country, a broad coalition of community leaders, students, workers, farmers, and activists in Honduras have been resisting the de facto government. They continue to face harassment, illegal detentions, assault, rape and even assassination. We must stand with them. Contribute to the WFP emergency fund for Honduras!

Witness for Peace
3628 12th Street NE, 1st Fl.
Washington, DC 20017
202.547.6112 - 202.536.4708
witness@witnessforpeace.org

DO PEACE Article Excerpts from http://dopeace.ning.com/

OTTAWA — A federal New Democrat has teamed up with a Liberal to propose the creation of an army of peace professionals within a new federal department to resolve violent conflicts within Canada and around the world. The idea was introduced through new legislation tabled Thursday by NDP MP Bill Siksay, seconded by Liberal MP Jim Karygiannis. Siksay said the proposed department of peace could change the role of the Canadian military, but not necessarily replace it. Bill Bhaneja, a co-chair of the Canadian Department of Peace Initiative, said the proposed department could employ hundreds of professionals who would promote a culture of peace in the government's policies and actions, as well as help to resolve conflicts in a non-violent way. Siksay said it was unlikely that the legislation and its proposals would get adopted in the near future in Parliament since it is a private member's bill. Government legislation gets priority for debates in Parliament while opposition bills are debated in order based on a random draw. But Bhaneja said he was encouraged by recent meetings with Liberals and New Democrats who appear to be more interested by the establishment of a ministry of peace, following other countries such as Nepal, Solomon Islands and Costa Rica.

OMNI AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN BOOK FORUM
NOV. 6, 2009, NIGHTBIRD BOOKS, 6PM

The books for this Forum discuss the complicated history and factional rivalries that have shaped Afghanistan, imperial—British, Soviet, and US—forays into Afghanistan and South and Central Asia, the role of the CIA, the rise of Bin Laden and Taliban, human rights struggles of women in Afghanistan, and much more. These books help us to understand the history of Afghanistan and Western Pakistan, knowledge essential to a citizen who wishes to be informed in order to have a voice regarding the costs and the future of this longest war in U.S. history.

PANELISTS
Sanam Riaz: Ali, The Duel (history of Afghanistan)
Jesse Barr: Kolhatkar and Ingalls, Bleeding Afghanistan
Edrene McKay: Chayes, The Punishment of Virtue
Julie Thacker: Rashid, Descent into Chaos
Do you have a few hours you could volunteer helping with the archives of OMNI Center? Are OMNI folks aware that we’ve been saving all the information and publicity from our work over the years? We’ve been archiving it for future generations trying to understand the peace movement in Northwest Arkansas. When we were doing peacework the 1970’s and 80’s everybody was too young to realize how important this history might be... not much of the story of that period survives. What a shame. Founder Dick Bennett is determined that this current history should be preserved. He and OMNI archivist Karen Idlet are working with Mullins Library to hold our records for future historians. But Dick could use some help. Mullins has asked him to donate the peace, justice and ecology periodicals he read during the formative period before he helped found OMNI. The magazines need some sorting, boxing, and delivering. Are there any good OMNI folk with an interest in history who’d help Dick work on this important project? Please reply to Gladys at “gladystiffany@yahoo.com” if you’d like to work on this. She looks forward to hearing from you. And say... if you have artifacts of that peace history from the 1970’s and 80’s, write to Dick. He’d love to hear about that. So would Mullins Library. Dick's email is "jbennet@uark.edu".

2009 Family Economic Security Conference
*The Necessities of Life and Sustaining Economic Security*
REGISTER NOW!
NOVEMBER 2 – 3, 2009
**Holiday Inn Airport**
3121 Bankhead Drive
Little Rock, AR 72206
(501) 490-1000
Hotel rate: $88 + 11.5% tax
Conference features:
*Guest Speaker:* Nick Johnson, Director of the State Fiscal Project, Center for Budget & Policy Priorities
Reports from Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families
Participate in a Poverty Simulation
**Two Workshop Tracks:**
1.) The Necessities of Life: Nutritious Food, Healthcare, Housing, and Energy
2.) Sustaining Economic Security through Education, Asset Development, and Available Resources
Registration fee: $50 for both days; $35 one-day registration also available.
Call Julie Kerr at (501)324-8296 for details.

OMNI youth are selling fair trade holiday goodies to support OMNI Center! If you’d like to indulge in the delicious taste of sustainability and justice this year, call to ask about our Equal Exchange products! Sales end December 1st. Call the OMNI office at (479) 935 - 4422.
"Raising livestock for their meat is a very inefficient way of generating food. Pound for pound, far more resources must be expended to produce meat than to produce grains, fruits and vegetables. For example, more than half of all water used for all purposes in the U.S. is consumed in livestock production. While 25 gallons of water are needed to produce a pound of wheat, 5,000 gallons are needed to produce a pound of California beef. That same 5,000 gallons of water can produce 200 pounds of wheat. If this water cost were not subsidized by the government, the cheapest hamburger meat would cost more than $35 per pound. Meat-eating is devouring oil reserves at an alarming rate. It takes nearly 78 calories of fossil fuel (oil, natural gas, etc.) energy to produce one calorie of beef protein and only 2 calories of fossil fuel energy to produce one calorie of soybean. If every human ate a meat-centered diet, the world's known oil reserves would last a mere 13 years. They would last 260 years if humans stopped eating meat altogether. That is 20 times longer, giving humanity ample time to develop alternative energy sources. Thirty-three percent of all raw materials (base products of farming, forestry and mining, including fossil fuels) consumed by the U.S. are devoted to the production of livestock, as compared with 2% to produce a complete vegetarian diet." Source: ~
http://www.animalssuffering.com/vegetarianism.php Submitted by Ryan Bancroft
Smorgasbord!

Wednesday December 16th, at Scarpino's in Fayetteville,
Harmonia presents their annual Winter Concert --- save the evening, details later!

Fish Out of Water film screening
As part of Diversity Weekend, the NWA Center for Equality will sponsor a film screening of Fish Out of Water at the historic Carnegie Library Annex, 194 Spring Street in Eureka Springs on Saturday, October 31st at 1pm. The screening is FREE to the public and seating is limited. For more information contact info@nwacenteforquality.org.

Friday November 20th, 7:30 p.m. at the Botanical Gardens of the Ozarks
Geoff Oelsner, Family, and Friends --- CD release party for his new CD, “Ordinary Mystery”
Performers will include Kelly Mulhollan, Leslie Oelsner, Robin Rues, and Andrew Sieff

“On Being a Native Alien: The Question of a Writer's Identity”
Thursday, November 5 -- 3:30 PM -- Kimpel 105 -- Free and Open to the Public
Zulfikar Ghose, a prolific author of poetry, fiction, and literary criticism, was born in British India in 1935, an area that became Pakistan. In the 60s he began publishing poetry, short stories and his first novels. The Murder of Aziz Khan (1967), a harshly realistic look at the persistence of feudalism in newly independent Pakistan, is considered the first novel by a Pakistani published in the United States. His most recent novel is Triple Mirror of the Self (1992). He is currently Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Texas, Austin, where he taught for many years. As the title of his lecture suggests, Ghose defies -- and resists -- neat geographical or theoretical categorization as author and critic. His talk is sponsored by the Pakistan Culture Club, the Program in Latin American Studies, and the King Fahd Center for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies

http://thevoiceoftheozarks.org/

CAT invited you to "Masquerade Ball" on Friday, October 30 at 9:00pm.
Event: Masquerade Ball
What: Benefit
Start Time: Friday, October 30 at 9:00pm
End Time: Saturday, October 31 at 12:00am
Where: Town Center

The Art Experience, Center for Expressive Arts Healing and Growth presents Fall Groups and Classes led by Jo Ann Kaminsky
Puppet Classes Saturday 10 am-12 pm for 6 sessions. Ages 8 and up. 6 weeks Begins 10-24-09 $135
Path Finders Art Group Saturday—2-4 pm Ages 13 to 17. 6 weeks Begins 10-24-09. $120.
Oil Painting for Adults- Wednesdays 1-3:30 pm 6 weeks Begins 10-28-09 $135 +materials
Masks for Change Weekend Intensive— An adult personal growth group —We use mask making to explore and understand our place in our life’s journey and begin to create changes we want. You will draw, sculpt, journal, use sound and movement to develop your own “spirit” mask. Group limit 8. Dec 4th and 5th, 2009, 9 am-4 pm. $135.
The Art Experience
641 W. Martin Luther King Blvd.
Fayetteville, AR 72701 Phone: (479) 442-0557
Email: kjo_ann@hotmail.com- www.joannkaminsky.com