OMNI NEWSLETTER OF H O P E #3, January 7, 2013.
BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE and JUSTICE, Compiled by Dick Bennett (#1 March 26, 2008; #2 2009). Are you reading OMNI's newsletter INMOtion, which contains birthdays of peace, justice, and ecology heroes?

All of OMNI’s newsletters build hope, because the search for reality and the truth discovered and achieved are always positive, illusion and wishful thinking taking us nowhere. In our HOPE and ACTIVISM and other newsletters we focus on some people, organizations, actions, and plans directly reconstituting the present for a better world.

My blog:
War Department/Peace Department
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/

Newsletters
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/

Index:
http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/

Contents of #2
December and January PEOPLE for peace, justice, and ecology.
Mice (yes)
Planetary
UN
Organization
Body
Children
New President
Equality
Truth-telling
Forgiveness
Compassion
Kindness
Service
Hope for Peace by Dick Bennett

As New Year’s Day 2000 swept westward from time zone to time zone, city to city, the world rose in one voice of hope for the new century. The United Nations called the year 2000 the Year of Peace, and the ten years to follow, the Decade of Peace, and issued a Manifesto for a Culture of Peace to define the goals of the envisioned future.

The “Statement on Violence” adopted by UNESCO at a meeting in Seville in 1986, despite its simplification of several problems, prepared for this hopefulness. The “Seville Statement” objects to the widespread assumption that organized violence is biologically determined, that humans are genetically programmed inevitably to do violence to each other by wars. Human biology, it argues, makes warfare possible, but not inevitable.

The twentieth century, only a moment in our species’ evolution, is often referred to as the century of world wars and slaughter, but it also deserves to be remembered for imagining peace as a global possibility. The League of Nations was an early, failed experiment. The United Nations is another attempt to actualize what we now imagine. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, for example, which argues for world amity based upon rights and laws, was promulgated only a half-century ago.

On December 10, 1948, the U. N. General Assembly ratified the UDHR, reaching back to preceding utopian declarations—the U. S. Declaration of Independence of 1776, the French Revolutionary Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen of 1789, the U. S. Constitution also of 1789, and its Bill of Rights. The U. N. Declaration’s Preamble affirms “the inherent dignity…and equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family” to be “the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world,” and “should be protected by the rule of law.”

The work ahead for the peace movement is to expand its numbers and effectively exert its political will based upon these principles, until believers in nonviolent peacemaking gain leadership in governments throughout the world, as in Denmark with Olaf Palme and Costa Rica with Oscar Arias, in order to prevent wars. As Costs of Conflict demonstrate, conflict prevention is cost-effective, by all...
economic, human, and environmental measures.

The good influence of the United Nations is inestimable. For example, the UN Year/Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence 2000/2010, endorsed by the Security Council in 1999, offers, in the words of Michael True, “an opportunity to revitalize the peace movement’s language and program. It is a concrete effort to reclaim the dynamics of peace, after a century of world wars.” The Culture of Peace movement urges “globalization from below,” including: 1) education in nonviolence, 2) grassroots democracy, 3) citizen diplomacy, 4) free media, 5) more women in peacemaking, and 6) sustainable development. Obviously, in this conception peace is no mere absence of war but a dynamic program for preventing wars and, when a war still occurs, healing its consequences.

STACEY O'BRIEN, WESLEY THE OWL, FREE PRESS, 2008.
Wesley the Owl - Stacey O'Brien

Guide Review - Book Review: Wesley the Owl

*Wesley the Owl* is a fantastic book that not only shares the intimate details of raising an unreleasable barn owl, but also reveals the unique personality of one special owl and the relationship he shared with his caregiver, Stacey O'Brien. The incredible details of the book, from a barn owl’s smell to owl legends to the problems owls can face in old age lead readers through the life of this barn owl and the evolution of his personality.

At the same time, O’Brien shares the less than glamorous details of caring for a wild bird to give a balanced and fair view of the commitment such a relationship requires. Killing mice, losing sleep to a nocturnal bird and bearing the scars of eager *talons* are just a few of the trials O’Brien endured from the time she took Wesley in on February 14, 1985 to when he died on January 8, 2005.
O’Brien discovered more than she’d ever thought possible about barn owls as she cared for Wesley. Not only did she learn that he was an intensely passionate and loyal creature, but she developed intricate communication with him vocally as well as by reading his emotions in posture and behavior. “We communicated – spirit to spirit,” she said. Through her heartfelt writing, readers can learn that communication and share a small part of the love story she shared with her owl, including how he both enriched and eventually saved her life, just as she’d saved the life of a tiny barn owl chick with a nerve-damaged wing.

**Power Systems: Conversations on Global Democratic Uprisings and the New Challenges to U.S. Empire**

*Interviews with David Barsamian by Noam Chomsky*

In conversation with David Barsamian, Noam Chomsky discusses the hope offered by global uprisings and the new challenges to US empire. Chomsky takes on the harsh realities of consolidated elite centers of power, along with the possibilities for change through grassroots movements. Is there the possibility that the US and world might finally veer toward the arc of justice? "It's not going to be easy," Chomsky warns, "it never is. But you can make a difference. You just have to find your own way."

**A Paradise Built in Hell: The Extraordinary Communities That Arise in Disaster**

*By Rebecca Solnit*

In her 2010 book, Rebecca Solnit illustrates that amidst disasters one can often find "constellations of solidarity, altruism, and improvisation." Solnit delves into five large-scale disasters to detail "the extraordinary communities that arise in disaster." These sparks of light, of human outreach during the most testing and grim times, are what offer us a guide to creating "paradise built in hell."

**Democracy at Work: A Cure for Capitalism**

*By Richard Wolff*

Richard Wolff writes frequently for Truthout and is an internationally recognized economist, specializing in alternatives to vulture capitalism; particularly, in this book, worker's self-directed enterprises. In "Democracy at Work," Wolff doesn't just analyze a crumbling economic system; he offers bold solutions that truly represent democracy in action.
Winning the War on War by Joshua S. Goldstein

"The tide of war is receding" President Obama, June 2011

“The greatest untold story of the past two decades.”
– Steven Pinker, Harvard University

“Does what no other book has attempted... It takes an unusual and unorthodox approach that works very well indeed.”
– Paul Kennedy, Yale University

– See all endorsements –

Dutton/Penguin, Sept. 2011
ISBN: 978-0-525-95253-4
hardbound 400 pp. $26.95

Winning the War on War: The Decline of Armed Conflict Worldwide
Despite the gory headlines, the decade since 9/11 has been
the most peaceful worldwide in the past century.

Preeminent scholar of international relations Joshua Goldstein tears down one of the greatest
myths of modern history. Despite all the hand-wringing, fearmongering, and bad-news headlines, peace is on the rise. Fewer wars are starting, more are ending, and those that remain are smaller and more localized than in past years. Incredibly, no national armies are still fighting one another—all of today’s wars are civil wars. Understanding this worldwide decline in armed conflict is crucially important as America shifts from a decade of war to an era of lower military budgets and operations.

Goldstein’s groundbreaking analysis of the empirical evidence is convincing, but the real power of his argument lies in the accounts of experiences on the violent frontlines where peace must actually be put into effect. He shows how today’s successes in building peace have grown out of decades of effort and sacrifice by people working through international organizations, humanitarian aid agencies, and popular movements around the world. At the center of this drama is the United Nations and its sixty-year experiment in peacekeeping—overwhelmingly supported by American public opinion—which is making a measurable difference in reducing violence in our time.

Taking us from his own sleepless night in Beirut as shells landed in nearby streets, to the agonizing failures of the international community in Bosnia and Rwanda, to the recent triumphs of peacekeeping in West Africa, Goldstein tells the most exciting and important untold global story of our age. He shows how large-scale looting, sexual assault, and atrocities are being stopped, and how we can continue building on these hopeful and inspiring achievements to keep winning the war on war. REV. VETERANS FOR PEACE (WINTER 2012) BY Will Shapira.

HUMANIST HOPE

“...humanism is not about hope. It’s about facing the world as it actually exists and making the best of it. It’s about looking this world in the eye and, using imagination and initiative, building castles in the sand, not castles in the sky.” Lawrence Rifkin, “What about Hope?” The Humanist (Jan.-Feb. 2012). So few of OMNI’s newsletters are entitled “hope” because all of the newsletters are about hope. They are about seeking and telling the truth about the world and especially about established power, imagining the better future, and changing the abusive structures created and controlled by power into the imagined future.


Active Hope is about finding, and offering, our best response to the crisis of sustainability unfolding in our world. It offers tools that help us face the mess we’re in, as well as find and play our role in the collective transition, or Great Turning, to a life-sustaining society.

“Books about social and ecological change too often leave out a vital component:
how do we change ourselves
so that we are strong enough
to fully contribute to this great shift?
Active Hope fills this gap beautifully, guiding readers on a journey of gratitude, grief, interconnection and, ultimately, transformation.”
Naomi Klein, author of The Shock Doctrine.

At the heart of this book is the idea that Active Hope is something we do rather than have. It involves being clear what we hope for and then playing our role in the process of bringing that about. The journey of finding, and offering, our unique contribution to the Great Turning helps us to discover new strengths, open to a wider network of allies and experience a deepening of our aliveness. When our responses are guided by the intention to act for healing of our world, the mess we’re in not only becomes easier to face, our lives also become more meaningful and satisfying.

POWER OF CREATIVITY

The following is the kind of entries you will find in our ACTIVISM Newsletter:

“A RIDE TO THE END: THE BIKES NOT BOMBS TOUR”

Veterans for Peace (Winter 2012). Jacob George’s ARTTE and his return to Afghanistan. See the ARTTE newsletter at www.operationawareness.org. Contact ARTTE at: a.ride.till.the.end@gmail.com

THE PATH TO HOPE in FRANCE

Copyright © Librairie Arthème Fayard, 2011 Originally published in French as Le chemin de l’espérance. “a call for attention to injustice and failure.”

Translation copyright © 2012 Antony Shugaar Foreword copyright © 2012 JeA

CONTENTS

Foreword by Jeff Madrick vii

Our Country and Its Place In the World,

Our Nation, the World, and Europe

13 Why Reform and Transform? 15The Politics of Quality of Life 22The Revitalization of Fellowship
“Hope is a long slow thing” by Marge Piercy

Matthew Rothschild: …every time I heard Howard Zinn speak, he would recite poetry, usually from Marge Piercy, so I’m delighted to say that we’re publishing an original from Marge Piercy in the next issue of The Progressive.

It’s called “Hope is a long slow thing,” and the last stanzas read:

“We are droplets in a wave. Maybe

I cannot with my efforts displace

a rock but the energy of a movement

can force it from the way. Look back:

My great grandmother was killed

in a pogrom. My grandmother gave

birth to eleven children in a tenement

eating potatoes only sometimes. My
mother had to leave school in tenth grade
to work as a chambermaid that salesmen
chased around dirty beds. Nothing
changed by itself but was changed by work.

History records no progress people
did not sweat and dare to push. A long
‘we’ is the power that moves the rock.”

Here is the link to all OMNI newsletters:

http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/ Knowledge of the world and self-knowledge are like driving pillars deep into the ground for a solid foundation.

END HOPE NEWSLETTER #3

--
Dick Bennett
My blog:
War Department/Peace Department
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/
Newsletters
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/
Index:
http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/
National/International Days
See Newsletters
Peace, Justice, Ecology Birthdays
See INMOtion
jbennet@uark.edu
(479) 442-4600
2582 Jimmie Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72703