



Spring 2013

Planted by the Waters

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People, Land and Justice — The Community Challenge to Protect Public Land

a report by Janet Cordes Gibson

Last October, EPI supporters attended our annual Autumn Gathering at Epworth United Methodist Church in Berkeley. Our theme, "People, Land and Justice," tied the historical with the present and the spiritual with the practical as we listened to music and speakers who celebrated, analyzed and criticized our inexorable relationship to the land.

Walter Ogi Johnson, a Potawatomi Tribal Member, is a traditional Native American flute player and maker of flutes. Originally from Wisconsin, Wally has lived in Berkeley for many years. He says, "I have made the flute an integral part of my spiritual practice. My gift to all is the music from within the flute brought forth by the Spirit within myself which reflects the voices of my ancestors."



Our gathering began with a delicious dinner prepared by Janeen Antoine, local Native American activist. The spirit of the evening was set with music from Native American flutist, Walter Ogi Johnson and the traditional native people's Thanksgiving Address from Pat St. Onge. Pat asked that we gather our minds together as one, with prayers of thanksgiving, gratitude and love for all peoples of the world, all creatures of the world, and for creation itself. A panel of three speakers then challenged the audience to understand, in the words of Pat: "the culture clash between the perspectives of indigenous people and European culture."

Patricia St. Onge (Haudenosaune), *Seven Generations Consulting and Coaching*; lead author of "Embracing Cultural Competency: A Roadmap for Nonprofit Capacity Builders"; member of the Bay Area Indigenous Grandmothers and Interfaith Tent of Oakland Occupy; working to create "Nafsi ya Jamii" (The Soul Community) a retreat/renewal center and urban farm in East Oakland.



Pat St. Onge began the discussion stating that the organizing principal of native people and Africans is collectivism: land was to indigenous communities, as air is to us today. It is sacred. . . a fundamental gift of creation, and the measure for our success in life is our capacity for

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Good Friday, 2013 Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?

Some hundred and fifty of us gathered on the corner outside the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab at daybreak. We gathered with music "Morning Has Broken" as the sun rose over the Altamont hills. We were joined by a group of walkers who had walked to Livermore from the Mount Diablo Peace Center during the week.



Before the service Carla DeSola teaches the closing dance.

Marylia Kelley of Tri-Valley CAREs gave us a history of the founding of the Livermore Lab and went on to the latest news about the doings at the lab and the ongoing work being done to challenge and limit nuclear weapons development. "We are here re-consecrating holy ground that has been devastated by violence, militarism and the development of nuclear weapons. It is important that we are here together today."



Our invocation was by Zahra Biloo, an attorney with CAIR, who offered for our opening prayer, the Fatiha, the daily prayer of Muslims all over the world. Zahra told us that Muslims believe that to take one life is as if to take all of humanity's life. She said that the Livermore Labs represent a desire to do that, to create weapons of mass destruction.

J.C. Orton also offered a brief invocation remembering and repenting our nation's use of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, remembering our ongoing wars around the globe, calling us to live in love.

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Good Friday at Livermore, *continued*

Led by Silvia Brandon Perez and Esteban (Stephen Myers), we joined in a responsive reading based on text from Dr. King's book "Where Do We Go from Here?" and a selection of religious texts. Jo Ann Lawson then sang "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?"

We heard the word from Rev. Phil Lawson.

Phil remembered Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, given 50 years ago. He told us that day Mehalia Jackson sang "We've come this far by faith", and then she whispered to Dr. King to tell them about the dream. Phil said, "This morning, standing as always in the shadow of the empire, I want to tell you about the dream. Always we stand in the shadow of the empire. April 4th is the anniversary of the assassination of Dr. King, that's next week.



"In the shadow of the empire, Lawrence Laboratory, I want to tell you about the dream. To do that I want to go to the 4th chapter of Micah and talk to you about the dream:

In the days to come ... people shall stream to the mountain of the Lord ... saying let us go to the mountain of the Lord.... that he may teach us his ways and we may walk in his paths....

He shall judge between many peoples ...

They shall beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruning hooks and nations shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

They shall all sit under their own vine and under their own fig tree and no one shall make them afraid. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken. For all the peoples walk, each in the name of its god. But we will walk in the name of our god forever and ever.

"In the days to come — the prophet Micah asks us to raise up our imaginations to see that there is another alternative to this present reality.

"In the days to come — the prophet Micah says people will willingly dismantle their weapons. People will willingly transform them into articles of food production and for building community. Why will they do those things? Because there is such a thing as a community in which there is sufficient trust and wellbeing that people will willingly set aside their weaponry and all their defense mechanisms.

"Sons and daughters of slave owners and sons and daughters of ex-slaves will work together and all wounds will be healed up in the days to come. That's the dream — in the days to come they will dismantle their weapons.

"In the days to come — people will transform their weapons into instruments for building community because the community is such that they trust one another enough. They are confident that their wellbeing and your wellbeing is all held together in the Beloved Community —

"That's the vision of Micah. In the days to come — they shall all sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees and no one shall make them afraid.

"The community will be founded upon justice — one vine, one fig tree, a modest kind of living together, not 'as much as I can get,' but one vine and one fig tree. A community in which arrangements are made for the basic necessities of life — grounded in our care for one another. That means, sisters and brothers, all will have livable wages and good productive jobs. That means there'll be affordable housing for all people. That means — in the dream, the earth will be cared for because justice will begin to take place in that Beloved Community and none shall make them afraid — no one shall make us afraid.

"Orwell in his novel 1984 talked of a time to come in which people would be controlled by their fears and by their hatreds. Sometimes I feel that we may be in that day right now.

"But Micah says the days will come when justice will be the foundation of peace in the Beloved Community.

"All the people walk, each in the name of its god. But we will walk in the name of our god.

"We will live and let live in a society that allows those who are not like us to live peaceably by their own gods. Doesn't deny there might be other gods, doesn't say this is the only way. It's a community that allows people room to choose for themselves their gods and to live peaceably with other gods.

"One of the weapons we must give up is this weapon that we are exceptional people, that we have the only way, that my faith is the only way to God. No, each to their own gods, living peaceably and none will make them afraid. That's the vision of Micah. That's the Beloved Community that we are moving towards.

"On the day before he was assassinated, Dr. King spoke in Memphis — his last sermon. In the shadow of the empire he talked about not being afraid. Although he knew of all the threats against his life, he said, 'I am not afraid. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.'

"Sisters and brothers, the glory of God is a human being fully alive. I can testify to you that I have seen that glory of God. I see in people like yourselves who are fully alive today, saying 'No' to nuclear weapons, saying 'No' to any more designs that threaten to kill humanity and the earth.

"I was a seventeen years old boy when I first saw the glory of God in human beings fully alive. We gathered in 1950 to work on desegregating Washington DC drugstore counters. I saw young people like myself who were fully alive and excited that they were building a new world and a new nation. . . I have seen fully alive people throughout my lifetime in gatherings like this, protest movements, working for fairness — I've seen people, all of them fully alive — the glory of God.

"The only question I want to lay on you this morning is 'Are you big enough for the dream?' There are people who need to hear us tell of the dream — of where we are going, what it is going to look like. Are we big enough for that dream so we will leave here stronger, more determined, more convinced that God is moving to make this a nation of the people, by the people and for all of the people.

"In the days to come — there will be justice, there will be peace, there will be safe and soundness for all of God's children. Amen."

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Good Friday at Livermore, *continued*

We then sang Vincent Harding's song, set to Jacob's Ladder, which included the words:

We are building a new nation.
Builders must be strong.

Courage sisters, brothers, people don't get weary. . .

Concluding the service Carla DeSola and the GTU dancers danced to the text "They shall beat their swords into plowshares," beautifully read by Estaban.

For benediction Fr. Bernard Campbell of Berkeley's Newman Hall, gave us the prayer of St. Francis, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace."

For our commissioning to action we sang Jim Strathdee's setting of the Micah text "What Does the Lord Require of You", and were led by Carla DeSola to express the words in motion.

When the service was concluded, we walked to the west gate of the Lab, stopping along the way to reflect at the stations of the cross where we meditated upon the people's sufferings responding with "If you want peace, work for justice":

- † Immigrants and other people working in low paying jobs.
- † Palestinians under occupation and ongoing attack.
- † Homeless people, living and dying on our streets.
- † Weapons research at the lab and environmental destruction.

At the gate, the Interfaith Tent for Justice had set up a place for meditation where several people sat in reflection under the beautiful canopy. When the people had all come, Carla led us in a circle dance to Vincent Harding's song. The circle dance became a spiral dance winding around in front of the gate. Those who were risking arrest left the spiral to stand at the gate. Thirty-seven folk were arrested.



Afterward, at the community gathering at nearby Asbury United Methodist Church, people shared their thoughts and feelings. One sentiment expressed was that this service gave hope and impetus for going on with work for peace and justice in the upcoming year.

photos by Amanda Scarr



People, Land and Justice, *continued*

harmony. The clash with European culture is hypothesized in Jared Diamond's book, *Guns, Germs and Steel*. Beginning with the belief that man should have dominion over the rest of creation, white Europeans developed the "Doctrine of Discovery." A series of 15th century papal bulls explicitly stated that any land not already inhabited by Christians can be claimed by its Christian "Discoverers." Any inhabitants who could not be converted were to be enslaved or killed. The U.S. has maintained this doctrine in its westward expansion.

Pennie Opal Plant, of Native American heritage, has been an activist for over 30 years. She is an independent small business owner in Albany (*Gathering Tribes*). She has been involved in the community garden/farm at Gill Tract for over 15 years, working with a group of Albany residents attempting to use that very good agricultural land for supporting the development of urban agriculture. She lectures for CELDE, Community Environment Legal Defense Fund, which helped Ecuador put Rights of Nature and the Ecosystem into its constitution.



Contemporary land issues surrounding the Gill Tract in Albany, and as far away as the Trans Canadian Pipeline, were the focus of Pennie Opal Plant's presentation. She addressed the struggle between the financial interests of big corporations, land developers, even public institutions and the public interest to maintain a sustainable environment that protects the earth by "acting locally in the best interests of our children and our descendants to seven generations." Her hope is that a New Paradigm, going as far back as Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* in 1962 and continuing in our recent "Occupy" movement, will be inspired by indigenous wisdom to wake up humanity from "the illusion that those in power make the right choices for all of us." Pennie warned that "We either inspire a lot of people to stand up for us or we will have a lot of apologies to make to our grandkids!"

Dr. Gray Brechin is the founder and project scholar of the Living New Deal, a team effort to inventory, map, and interpret the public works legacy of the New Deal in the U.S. based at the UC Berkeley Department of Geography. He is the author of *Imperial San Francisco: Urban Power, Earthly Ruin* and (with photographer Robert Dawson) *Farewell, Promised Land: Waking from the California Dream*.



Our final speaker, Gray Brechin, traced his political thinking from his origins in a conservative Republican family, to becoming a Vietnam War protester. He is now progressing to something "beyond being a Democrat." Through words and slides, Gray shared his passion for protecting "public" land and buildings. He traced our common heritage from England where, before the 17th and 18th centuries, much land was commonly held — nobody owned it. . . everybody owned it. This enabled the peasants to graze their stock and make a livelihood — it was common "wealth." In the 17th and 18th centuries Parliament enclosed the commons and forced people off the land, leaving them the choice of working in factories and mines,

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or immigrating across the Atlantic looking for new land and taking it away from indigenous people. This is the story of continual expropriations done with military force and police action.

By 1787 Americans were expanding beyond the original 13 states and the Northwest Ordinance was written to lay out the new states and also to apportion that land for private ownership. This ordinance recognized the rights of the Indian population: "The utmost good faith shall always be observed towards the Indians. Their lands and properties shall never be taken from them without their consent." Paying no attention to this law, expansion continued and settlers moving into the present state of Ohio triggered the local Indian population to fight back in what became known as the Northwest Indian War, killing 800 U.S. soldiers. President Washington didn't like this very much, sent in an overwhelming force, and set the direction for future expropriations.

Gray's slides documented artistic observations of these expropriations. On the walls of San Francisco's George Washington High School, a New Deal mural painter depicts Washington making the treaty with the Indians while pointing the pioneers west as another person walks over the dead body of an Indian. From his book, *Farewell, Promised Land: Waking from the California Dream*, Gray documented the violence and absurdity associated with "real estate": pictures showing the selling of land and arbitrary property lines in the hills; forest land that had been stripped of everything except a small house and one remnant tree; Tahoe beachfront property lines that keep people, but not ducks, from crossing. "We draw arbitrary lines on a map and enforce that on the land. It usually has nothing to do with what is on the land, a mountain or streams. . . . And law, the military, and the police are used to enforce those lines."

One cannot help but see repeating parallels from the 15th century to the present. We cannot undo history, but we can learn from it. Information and communication are more accessible than ever before. The struggle for justice is endless. The challenge is ongoing to protect the best and most noble interests of our people and land. Reflecting back to the Native Thanksgiving address, we can be inspired by these words: "We are one tiny part of this magnificent creation and we acknowledge the origin of our life. We acknowledge the love that was infused in the creation of everything that we have sent our love to. And we gather our hearts and our minds together and send our love to the creator. And so our minds are one."

photos by Amanda Scarr

After William Blake

If, as Blake writes,
"Peace is the human dress,"
then these war-days
we are clothed in rags and tatters
not befitting the divine human form
which Blake calls Love.

Claire J. Baker

from *On the Edge of Peace*

Syria — stop fueling the crisis

Who in Syria is fighting for what? Professor Stephen Zunes, of USF, has said in a number of interviews that the Syrians originally working for democratic governance were using strictly non-violent means. They did not at any time ask for military "support," and they still do not. In December, the McClatchy papers headlined an article "Syrian rebels say Americans, Britons helped train them in Jordan."

Mel Duncan of the Nonviolent Peaceforce (<http://www.nonviolentpeaceforce.org/>), points out that "Recent headline stories about Syria have reported that the CIA is deeply involved in the arms flows and that the rebel groups are setting up an alternative government — headed by a U.S. citizen — that seeks to rule the country after a rebel military victory. Islamic fundamentalists, armed by Saudi Arabia and Qatar, play a major role in the foreign-backed rebel 'coalition.' The Russians and Iranians continue to arm the regime.

"Recently, a Syrian delegation, which [the Nonviolent Peaceforce] helped organize, visited the U.S. and presented a different view of the conflict and its possible resolution. Representing the non-violent and secular opposition that has attracted increasing support in the war-weary country, they pointed out the dangers of the Islamic fighters gaining control and ruling a country with many diverse religious and ethnic groups. The non-violent movement calls for peacemaking and a negotiated settlement, rejecting foreign intervention on both sides of the conflict. In light of a stalemate on the military front, and the change in the mood inside Syria, the secular opposition may emerge as a major player for peace in the country.

". . . Washington and its allies have been promoting a violent path which has proven to be a dead end. The rebel coalition, heavily influenced by Qatar and Saudi Arabia, cannot offer a democratic and secular future for the country. As support for the armed rebels wanes inside Syria, we need to promote the emerging forces for pluralism, democracy and peace."

Institute for Public Accuracy (<http://www.accuracy.org/>)

The Iran connection

Actually the Shi'a connection — many analysts consider U.S. and other western responses to the Assad regime to be in significant part the result of the fact that Syria is allied with Iran. Much of the "rebel" force in Syria being armed by Saudi Arabia are Wahabis, the radical Sunni group which forms the base for al Qaeda. Many news reports in mainstream media take for granted the al Qaeda element in the opposition forces. Robert Fisk asserts the U.S. is very probably arming al Qaeda forces in Syria through the Saudis.

Assad and his ruling party are members of a Muslim sect closely related to the Shi'a sect. He has supported and protected Syrian Christians and members of other religious minorities. The establishment of a radical Sunni-based government is not welcomed by many members of other religions. This forms a significant basis for support of the Assad government, even while reforms are sought.

The Iraq connection

Found in some news reports is the fact that some of the Syrian rebels are closely allied with al Qaeda in Iraq.

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Chemical weapons

Recent news has been full of allegations that the government of Syria “probably has used” chemical weapons. So far, as of this writing, President Obama is requiring definite proof of who has done what before responding to an alleged crossing of a “red line”. “U.S. officials said the intelligence community believed with ‘varying degrees of confidence’ that the chemical nerve agent sarin was used by Assad’s forces against rebel fighters. But it noted that ‘the chain of custody is not clear.’” (Reuters, April 26, 2013) It is worth noting that a number of “rebel” fighters are Syrian military who have changed sides, bringing with them who knows what.

In the online blog posted by Foreign Policy magazine (<http://blog.foreignpolicy.com/blog/764716>) we read on April 25: “Why would Bashar al-Assad have used chemical weapons on a small scale after repeated warnings from Barack Obama that any use of chemical weapons would be a ‘game-changer’ for the United States? . . . Ralf Trapp, a consultant and renowned expert on chemical weapons [told Foreign Policy]: ‘From a military perspective, it doesn’t make sense to use chemical weapons bit by bit. Why would the regime just put it on a grenade here or a rocket launcher there? It’s just not the way you’d expect a military force to act.’

“ . . . From Trapp’s perspective, the tactical purpose of chemical weapons is to inflict mass casualties. Since Assad is more than capable of killing rebels in small doses, why would he deploy a small amount of chemical weapons when it runs the risk of inviting a U.S. military intervention?”

“ . . . Russia, an ally Syria can’t afford to lose, has also warned the regime against using chemical weapons. Tactically speaking, using chemical weapons on a limited scale could instill fear in the populace. But is that benefit for the Assad regime worth the cost of provoking the United States and angering Russia?”

In very late news, we see that Carla Del Ponte, an experienced United Nations investigator, has found evidence supporting “strong, concrete suspicions but not yet incontrovertible proof” that the rebels used sarin against the civilian population. (Foreign Policy magazine, May 6, 2013 & BBC & Robert Fisk)

Reconciliation through dialogue

“Further militarization of the conflict, I’m not sure that is the way to help the Syrian people,” Kofi Annan said [in a recent speech reported on Alternet], “They are waiting for the killing to stop. You find some people far away from Syria are the ones very keen for putting in weapons. My own view is that as late as it is we have to find a way of pouring water on the fire rather than the other way around.”

It is encouraging to learn from Paul Larudee that in May a fact-finding delegation of noted peace activists is heading to Syria. Included are Nobel Peace Laureate Mairead Maguire, Mel Duncan, Paul Larudee and many more. They will be hosted by “Mussalaha, a nonaligned group that excludes none of the factions in Syria. ‘Mussalaha’ means ‘reconciliation’ and this is what the group attempts to achieve through dialogue and humanitarian assistance. Although it is mainly composed of Syrian Christians, it includes participants from many of Syria’s confessional and ethnic communities.”

In Iran — Don’t Repeat the Tragic and Terrible Mistakes of the Past

by Carolyn S. Scarr

Iran has experienced decades of meddling from western European countries and the U.S. since the end of World War I. In 1920, Britain established the rule of the Pahlavi dynasty. Britain had already seized control of Iranian oil in 1901. To skip over a lot of intervening history, Dr. Mohammed Mossadegh was elected Prime Minister in 1951. He led the fight to nationalize Iran’s oil, successfully arguing Iran’s claim in the International Court at the Hague. In 1953, Mossadegh’s government was violently overthrown by the combined efforts of the CIA and Britain and the bloody rule of the Shah was established. After three years of imprisonment and a phony trial Dr. Mossadegh was executed as a traitor, saying “Yes, my sin — my greater sin...and even my greatest sin is that I nationalized Iran’s oil industry and discarded the system of political and economic exploitation by the world’s greatest empire.” See www.MohammadMossadegh.com for a biography of Dr. Mossadegh and some historical context.

This March Hans Blix, former UN weapons inspector in Iraq, said “Don’t Repeat in Iran the ‘Tragic and Terrible’ Mistakes of Iraq. . . . So far Iran has not violated NPT (the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) and there is no evidence right now that suggests that Iran is producing nuclear weapons.” Reported in Common Dreams, March 6, 2013

In past issues of *Planted*, we have gone over some of the arguments. It is worthwhile to repeat what we said just last spring. **Islamic rules** of war forbid use of fire in warfare. In the Hadith there is a saying of the Prophet (pbuh) that: “Punishment by fire does not behoove anyone except the Master of the Fire” (Abu Dawood). The injunction deduced from this saying is that the adversary should not be burnt alive. This religious injunction sheds light on the history of Iran and nuclear weapons as provided by Robert Fisk in an article of Jan 25, 2012 in *The Independent*. To summarize:

Iran’s nuclear weapons program started with the Shah. He was supplied by Siemens [a major German-based company] which built the Bushehr nuclear facility.

When Ayatollah Khomeini took over Iran in 1979, he ordered the entire nuclear project to be closed down because it was “the work of the Devil”. Only when Saddam invaded Iran — with Western encouragement — and started using poison gas against the Iranians (using chemical components arriving from the West, of course) was Khomeini persuaded to reopen it.

Thus we see why the current religious rulers of Iran have strictly forbidden the development of nuclear weapons, as is widely acknowledged in the Western press, who nevertheless don’t understand the foundation for this fatwa. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and both U.S. and Israeli intelligence say that Iran discontinued its nuclear weapons program in 2003, which was when the U.S. invaded Iraq and eliminated the threat of Saddam Hussein to Iran.

A reading of Iran’s nuclear history as reported by the IAEA in the last decade establishes that Iran has consistently enriched uranium only up to at most the 20% level of U235 which is nowhere near the 85 - 90% level required

Iran, continued

to achieve critical mass and a nuclear bomb. Last August 30, the Washington Post managed to mention, toward the end of an otherwise alarming article, that “the IAEA also found that Iran had converted much of the new material to metal form for use in a nuclear research reactor. **Once the conversion has taken place, the uranium can’t be further enriched to weapons-grade material**, Obama administration officials said.” (emphasis added) You can’t centrifuge the metallic form of uranium. Uranium hexafluoride, the gaseous compound, is spun to separate U235 from the heavier U238.

Negotiations and Diplomacy

In an interview in May 2012, by Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP), Hossein Mousavian, formerly Iranian diplomat and later research scholar at Princeton since 2009, states: “Iran will require assurances that a deal that ensures that Iran will not acquire a nuclear weapon will be sufficient to satisfy Israeli demands, in addition to those of the P5+1.” [The P5+1 are the 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany.]

Mousavian calls for a “step-by-step process [which] define[s] the endgame for negotiations in a way that takes the red lines or major demands of each of the parties into account. For Iran, there are three major demands that must be met in the course of these negotiations. The first is recognition of Iran’s rights under the NPT, including the right to a civilian enrichment program. The second is the lifting of sanctions. And the third is the normalization of Iran’s nuclear file, including the transfer of the issue out of the UN Security Council and back to the IAEA.

“The three major issues for the P5+1, in turn, appear to be the following: first, Iranian cooperation with the IAEA to address all remaining ambiguities concerning past activities, including outstanding technical questions on the possible military dimensions of the program; second, that Iran implement the Additional Protocol and attendant Subsidiary Arrangements [these are inspection requirements above and beyond those required of all signatories of the NPT]; and finally, that Iran not obtain a nuclear weapon with an irrevocable commitment that it will remain a non-nuclear weapons state. I believe, based on the public record, that these three elements are the principal demands of the P5+1, if they are serious about coming to a negotiated solution to the Iranian nuclear crisis.

“Once the major requirements of both sides have been identified, they should be included in the endgame of the step-by-step process and each step should have some relationship to meeting these conditions. Beyond these basic parameters, the details concerning specific steps are up to the negotiators to determine. . . . The principles underlying the negotiating framework have to be based first and foremost on non-discrimination. Iran’s rights under the NPT to develop civilian nuclear technologies should be recognized symmetrically with the rights of all other non-nuclear weapons state members of the NPT. To the extent that Iran is prepared to engage in maximum transparency and cooperation with the IAEA and the program can be declared to have no military applications, that is, to be peaceful, there is no basis to insist on limits on Iran’s civilian enrichment program.

“ . . . On the Iranian side . . . there is already a consensus that Iran does not need a nuclear weapon and that pursuit

or possession of a nuclear weapon will compromise rather than strengthen Iranian national security. This consensus is firmly grounded in numerous fatwas issued by the most senior religious authorities in the country.” [as also reported by Robert Fisk, see above]

MERIP asks: Why is recognition of Iran’s rights under the NPT so central to Iranian red lines and what would such recognition entail?

Mousavian: “While I was the spokesman for the nuclear negotiating team of the Khatami administration, from 2003 to 2005, the American position was that Iran must accept a deal that would allow for no civilian enrichment program (the so-called ‘zero enrichment’ posture). The US position on zero enrichment ultimately produced a deadlock that undid all of the groundwork laid over the course of two years of negotiations with the EU-3. At the time, Iran was prepared to start with an extremely minimal program that would involve restarting the Isfahan uranium conversion facility — with a commitment to swap everything produced by that plant for an equivalent amount of yellowcake — and retaining one pilot-size enrichment facility at Natanz, with a commitment to export all of the enriched uranium produced by the pilot facility. In other words, Iran’s rights under the NPT would be respected but for all intents and purposes Iran would not retain control over its indigenous uranium products.

“ . . . the Supreme Leader’s objectives have remained the same: protecting Iran’s right to pursue civilian nuclear energy under the NPT, transparency with neutral inspectors from the IAEA, assurances that Iran will not pursue the development or acquisition of a nuclear weapon, and normalization in Iran’s relations with the international community. There has been no change in these principles.” www.merip.org/mero/mero051612

Impact of the Heavy Sanctions

While negotiations stall and demands on Iran rise, the level and breadth of sanctions against Iran rise to levels last seen against Iraq.

According to a letter sent to UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon by the head of Iran’s Charity Foundation for Special Diseases, the current U.S.-led sanctions campaign against Iranian financial institutions and efforts to prevent western banks from doing business with Iran have made it next to impossible for Iranian doctors and hospitals to obtain medicines from abroad for such relatively rare but serious diseases as hemophilia, multiple sclerosis (MS), various cancers, kidney failure and thalassemia.

The tightening of international screws on Iranian financial transactions has also made it hard for domestic makers of some of these medicines in Iran to obtain the raw materials needed to manufacture needed medicines locally, according to the letter.

Fatemeh Hashemi Rafsanjani, the author of the letter, called on the Secretary General to act to prevent the sanctions campaign from harming an estimated 6 million Iranians who suffer from these diseases. She said that the sanctions had already “directly affected the lives and well-being of thousands of patients — many of them children. . . prevented from getting needed medicines.”

www.nationofchange.org/taking-it-out-kids-again-us-sanctions-iran-are-hurting-young-and-sick-1344863756

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What is to be done?

It's time to see the situation through Iranian eyes.

Interestingly, even the mainstream media is beginning to realize there is something wrong in "Obama administration's sanctions-heavy Iran policy . . . [which] critics say jeopardizes negotiations." *Christian Science Monitor*, April 25, 2013.

"One reason for the sanctions focus is 'we know how to do them. It's familiar. And to do them, we don't have to deal with the Iranians; we deal with the British, the United Nations, the Russians, the Chinese,' says Ambassador Limbert, who was also held captive in Iran during the 1979-81 hostage crisis, and speaks fluent Persian [Farsi — CSM should know this].

"Whereas diplomacy with Iran, that's hard. Nobody knows how to do that, and every time we've tried, we've failed. And as soon as we fail we've given up and gone back to doing what we know how to do."

As quoted in the article, Limbert makes no mention of the times the U.S. has walked away from a deal in which Iran has agreed to limit enrichment in exchange for being supplied with imported fuel rods. And the CSM writer is wrong on his science — 20% enriched uranium is a lot more than "a few technical steps away from bomb-grade of more than 90%" and given Israel's history of bombing its neighbors' nuclear facilities, not to mention schools and hospitals, it makes little sense for Iran to agree to abstain from deeply buried facilities. The fact that Iran protects its enrichment plants from airstrikes is often taken as evidence of attempts to hide them.

A significant factor impeding resolution of the hostility between the U.S. and Iran is the propensity of Congress to introduce and pass legislation impeding diplomatic communication and promoting military action against Iran. We need to keep watch on these proposals and work to head them off. And while we are about it we can support things like Barbara Lee's H.R.783: Prevent Iran from Acquiring Nuclear Weapons and Stop War Through Diplomacy Act, which has spent the last month in committee.

Some sources for alternative information are: <http://www.campaigniran.org/casmii/> and, even closer to Iran <http://www.iranreview.org/> and Havaar.

We encourage our readers to join the campaign, recently initiated by the Iranian group Havaar — Iranian Initiative Against War, Sanctions and State Repression — website <http://havaar.org/> They point out that "Sanctions and the constant threat of military intervention by the U.S. and Israel target the very people who have already been struggling to live under a corrupt government that has mismanaged the economy and thwarted basic democratic rights. The resulting state of emergency in Iran has only strengthened the hand of government officials who seek to crush popular movements inside the country under the pretext of defending national security." This is entirely consistent with the findings of the Bossuyt Report, on the sanctions against Iraq, given to the UN Human Rights Commission in 2000.

Havaar's website includes supporting statements from Denis Halliday, Kathy Kelly and Azadeh Shahshahani, President of the National Lawyers Guild, and a number of other leaders in peace work, including Dan Ellsberg. They are specifically "calling on major bank CEOs to allow financial transactions for purchases of medicine and

medical supplies for Iranians." To sign the appeal letter you can go to <http://havaar.org/medicine/help-iranians-access-lifesaving-medicine/>

The letter reads:

"Dear CEO,

"In recent months there have been increasing reports of medicine shortages and price inflation in Iran, resulting in a serious health crisis. Because Iranian banks are finding it difficult or impossible to conduct international financial transactions under the current U.S.-led sanctions regime, the medical industry in Iran has been unable to import sufficient, and affordable, quantities of vital medicines.

"Under existing Office of Foreign Assets Control regulations, medically-related bank transactions are generally exempt from the sanctions policy. We strongly urge your bank to enable these types of transactions — which are literally life-saving — with Iranian companies, and to clarify via public statement your corporate policy with respect to this issue."

We have been down this road before. We know what to do.

Iraq — struggles continue

by Carolyn S. Scarr

After the much celebrated "end of the Iraq war" Iraqis today are still struggling with the effects of decades of U.S. and British interference, beginning with the end of World War I and continuing to more than a decade of sanctions driven by U.S. power in the United Nations Security Council, followed by nearly a decade of U.S. occupation.

Planted readers have learned a lot about the destruction wreaked by the 1991 war and the decade of sanctions and "no-fly zones" which prevented the reconstruction of most of the civilian infrastructure. Iraq's medical system, which had rivaled Europe's, was hit hard by sanctions which forbade the import of essential medicines and equipment.

The 2003 invasion by the U.S. and its "coalition" partners wreaked more havoc, political as well as physical.

Divide and rule

As the U.S. searched for Iraqi political collaborators to establish a pro-occupation government, it marginalized the secular political forces, seen as too nationalist, in favor of more compliant religious parties. The U.S. promoted (and the mass media accepted) an ethnic/religious conception of Iraqi politics that did not acknowledge a history of secular nationalism and did not reflect the complex ethnic mix and the diversity of many Iraqi cities and regions. In 2006, Professor Stephen Zunes of USF wrote: "Until the 2003 U.S. invasion and occupation, Iraq had maintained a longstanding history of secularism and a strong national identity among its Arab population despite its sectarian differences. . . . Theologically, there are fewer differences between Sunnis and Shiites than there are between Catholics and Protestants. In small Iraqi towns of mixed populations with only one mosque, Sunnis and Shiites worship together. Inter-marriage is not uncommon. This harmony is now threatening to unravel." Doing just a little work with Iraqis, one encounters mixed Shi'a and Sunni marriages and Muslims who join their Christian friends in church for Christmas

continued on page 8

Iraq, continued

services. The occupation has encouraged rivalry for favor amongst the leadership of the religious parties, which has in some instances driven a wedge between the populations.

This divisiveness has not always been successful. Demonstrations usually raise slogans against sectarianism. People have defended their neighbors against sectarian attackers. A relatively recent positive development has been the establishment of the "Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative (ICSSI), dedicated to bringing together Iraqi and international civil societies through concrete actions to build together another Iraq, with peace and Human Rights for all." (from their website www.iraqicivilsociety.org) They have led in organizing international support for union leader Hassan Juma'a Awad. They are active in a coalition of organizations in Iraq, Turkey and Iran working to Save the World Heritage on the Tigris River from the impacts of the Ilisu Dam to be constructed by the Turkish government. This dam would drown ancient sites in Turkey and dry up the Iraqi Marshlands which are home to a threatened indigenous people in the delta.

Still a lot of violence

Notwithstanding Iraqi efforts to achieve a civil society there is still a lot of violence. Preparing for the Living Graveyard, we look at Iraq Body Count (IBC) and we see their count goes up at least a couple hundred each month. Iraq Body Count (IBC), based in London, was begun in 2003 to record the violent civilian deaths resulting from the military intervention. IBC uses crosschecked media reports and draws also on information from hospitals, morgues, NGOs and official agencies. IBC's most recent page lists four Awakening Council Members, seven government officials, four tribal leaders, two judges, a policeman, a mayor, a political party candidate, and a Hussein-procession leader.

Not all civilian deaths are found in IBC's data base. In 2004, the prestigious medical journal *The Lancet* published the report of the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health "cluster sample survey" of civilian casualties in Iraq. They estimated that at least 98,000 Iraqi civilians had died in the previous 18 months as a direct result of the invasion and occupation of their country. They also found that violence had become the leading cause of death in Iraq during that period. They found that the vast majority (79 percent) of violent deaths were caused by "coalition" forces using "helicopter gunships, rockets or other forms of aerial weaponry," and that almost half (48 percent) of these were children, with a median age of 8. The results of this study made quite a stir and were widely attacked by apologists for the attack on Iraq.

If the ratio between the number of deaths found by the Johns Hopkins University epidemiological study and the contemporaneous Iraq Body Count has held fairly constant, more than 1,695,000 Iraqi men, women and children have been killed by violence since the invasion of Iraq in 2003. That's the way we figure the number of deaths on the tombstones in the Living Graveyard. We read the names from Iraq Body Count, together with the dead from soldiers from California.

So who is killing Sunni Awakening Council Members, a Hussein-procession leader who was a Shi'a, and a bunch of government officials? Possibly the killers include the Iraq Special Operations Forces? Shane Bauer, a freelance

reporter who covered the region at the time, wrote in *The Nation*, June 22, 2009, about the creation of the Iraq Special Operations Forces, which began "just after the Americans took Baghdad in April 2003." The U.S. Army's Special Forces took a bunch of 18-year old Iraqis with no prior military experience into the deserts of Jordan and turned them into "a deadly, elite, covert unit, fully fitted with American equipment, that would operate for years under U.S. command and be unaccountable to Iraqi ministries and the normal political process." This unit was transferred to operate under the new Iraqi office, the "Counter-Terrorism Bureau" answerable only to the Prime Minister. The targets of this force will include Sunnis seeking participation in Iraq's political system. Sunnis are under attack as we write. U.S. connection — Bauer writes that Brig. Gen. Simeon Trombitas told him "U.S. Special Forces continue to 'have advisers at every level of the chain of command.'" This connection is going to continue for a long time.

Cui bono? Who benefits? Journalist David Bacon writes this April: "The big multinational petroleum giants now run Iraq's oilfields. In 2010, the Maliki government began granting contracts for developing existing fields and exploring new ones to eighteen companies, including Exxon-Mobil, Royal Dutch Shell, the Italian energy company Eni, Russia's Gazprom and Lukoil, Malaysia's Petronas and a partnership between BP and the Chinese National Petroleum Corporation. U.S. corporations won two of the eighteen contracts, while U.S. military protection provided the security umbrella protecting all of their field operations."

Greg Palast writes in his article of March 29 that the big oil companies insisted that Iraq's oil continue to be the property of the collaborationist Iraqi government so that their production would be limited under OPEC quotas. Documents Palast obtained show that "the U.S. oil industry . . . did NOT want to own the oil fields. . . They wanted to make sure there would be a limit on the amount of oil that would come out of Iraq. There was no way in hell that Baker's clients, from Exxon to Abdullah, were going to let a gaggle of neo-con freaks . . . flood the market with six million barrels of Iraqi oil a day and thereby knock its price back down to \$13 a barrel where it was in 1998."

What is to be done?

We in the U.S. can work with Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative to promote civil liberties and labor rights and to help in their efforts to protect their environment. Iraqis remember times when, political repression notwithstanding, their oil wealth was used to ensure free education for all, when their health care was fully covered and when women and men both held professional jobs. And we must insist that our members of Congress dig into the facts of the founding of the Iraq Special Forces unit and the way the so-called "Salvador option" has been put into motion in Iraq. We need to stop that option in its tracks.

Sources for this article include Foreign Policy in Focus, Global Policy Forum, *The Nation*, Iraqi Civil Society Solidarity Initiative, U.S. Labor Against War, uruknet.info, Equal Times News at Work and www.gregpalast.com, Iraq Body Count (www.iraqbodycount.org), and *Z Magazine* as posted on Truthout.

Ongoing Assault on Gaza

by Vivian Zelaya

On November 14, 2012 the world witnessed another horrific attack on Gaza! One hundred seventy-eight Palestinians, including forty-five children and women, were killed. One thousand three hundred ninety-nine people, including seven hundred nineteen children and women were injured and 90% of the casualties at Shifa hospital were civilians. Two hundred homes were demolished completely and another eight thousand partially destroyed. Thirty-two schools and colleges were bombed. Three cameramen were killed and nine media workers injured. Fourteen media organizations were targeted by Israeli weapons, which as we know, were made in the U.S.A.¹

All of this in eight days, and so soon after the 2008/2009 slaughter of Operation Cast Lead with its overwhelming statistics of death, maiming and destruction, including its misuse of white phosphorus and DIME bombs² and the wholesale destruction of water sources and sewage treatment plants. Let's not forget everyday deprivations like the restricted access to farming land, lack of spare parts for repair of irrigation, water, or sanitation systems, or any sort of repairs, the ongoing bullying and killing of Gaza's fishermen, the destruction of their fishing boats, frequent blackouts, poverty and stress. Targeted and random assassinations. Chilling! Isn't it?

Not as chilling as B'Tselem's or Amnesty International's reports on clean water availability in Gaza. According to B'Tselem's report of January 1, 2011, "Almost 95 percent of the water pumped in the Gaza Strip is polluted and unfit for drinking. . . The underground water has further been polluted by the deterioration in maintenance of the wastewater-treatment facilities since the siege on Gaza began, exacerbated by the damage done to the wastewater-treatment facility in Gaza City during Operation Cast Lead. Due to the poor quality of water, many Gazans have no choice but to buy water treated in facilities operated by local entrepreneurs or to use household water-treatment devices. No agency supervises the quality of water treated by these facilities or devices, and they cannot function consistently due to lack of spare parts and the frequent power shortages. Purifying water from pollutants such as nitrates and chlorides is very expensive. Consequently, a cubic meter of treated water can cost up to 50 shekels, ten times higher than the price of a cubic meter for households in Israel. Many Gazans cannot afford this expense."³

According to Save The Children/Medical Aid for Palestine "Gaza's residents (are) being squeezed into an ever-shrinking, increasingly unhealthy space with almost no clean water. It is the lack of this that makes children particularly vulnerable to the spread of diseases."⁴ (emphasis added)

What happens when humans, especially children, lack adequate clean water? According to the World Health Organization, "A child's well-being is highly dependent on both the quality and the availability of water, and on how well this precious resource is managed. . . . Contaminated water causes a range of diseases which are often life-threatening."⁵

As we know Gaza's health infrastructure is challenged beyond belief. We know that inadequate clean water leads

to illness and death in adults as well as children. Politics and adults aside, what is happening to Gaza's children? When does denial of adequate clean water, besides being utterly inhumane, become ethnic cleansing?

How much longer will we watch and wait as innocent children endure collective punishment and the loss of life? In the words of Chilean Nobel Laureate, Gabriela Mistral: "Many things we need can wait. The child cannot. Now is the time his bones are formed, his mind developed. To him we cannot say tomorrow, his name is today." Martin Luther King in his April 4, 1967 Vietnam speech reminds us "We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late."

What can we do in the face of such unconscionable injustice? First we must recognize that we cannot do it alone and we must be aware with Gandhi that "Whatever you (we) do will be insignificant, but it is very important you (we) do it." Middle East Children's Alliance (www.mecaforpeace.org) has a water project called the Maia Project directly focused on bringing clean water to the children of Gaza. The Meca website lists many ways we can help the Maia Project to succeed. The Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement (www.bdsmovement.net) provides us with many ways to express solidarity with the suffering and use economic pressure to bring about justice. Many other groups such as Christian Peacemaker Teams (www.cpt.org), International Solidarity Movement (www.palsolidarity.org), The US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation (www.endtheoccupation.org), and Friends of Sabeel North America (www.fosna.org) engage in education, direct action, and other forms of solidarity to bring justice and basic human rights to the people of the Holy Land.

1. "In Gaza, There's Nowhere to Run, Nowhere to Hide" Mohammed Omer, p.17 *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs* Jan./Feb. 2013) and "Israeli 'Surgical Targeting' of Journalists, Civilians A War Crime: Report" Jacob Chamberlain, 12/20/2012 <http://www.commondreams.org/headline/2012/12/20-0>. See also <http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/12/20/israelgaza-unlawful-israeli-attacks-palestinian-media>

2. Dense Inert Metal Explosives see *Eyes on Gaza* pp.86-87 Drs. Mads Gilbert and Erik Fosse, Quartet Books Limited, London 2010 and "Gaza doctors say patients suffering mystery injuries after Israeli attacks" Rory McCarthy *The Guardian* 10/17/06

3. www.btselem.org/gaza_strip/siege

4. Save The Children/ Medical Aid for Palestinians <http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Gaza%20Health%20Report%20FINAL-LR.pdf>

5. <http://www.who.int/ceh/risks/cehwater/en/index.html>

Carefully, gracefully,
Expand the heart.
Remove the preconceptions
which bind it.

Let the energy radiate.

Alexandra "Sandy" R. Hunter

from *On the Edge of Peace*

Popular Democracy Under Attack in Haiti *Paramilitaries, Cronyism and Corruption*

by Ben Terrall, edited for *Planted* by Charlie Hinton

Haitian President Michel Martelly has inspired popular opposition to his regime since his election in the runoff election of May 2011. Martelly came to office in a grossly unrepresentative process that excluded Fanmi Lavalas, the country's most popular party. He has been closely linked with figures around former dictator Jean Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, whom Martelly warmly welcomed back from luxurious exile in France in January 2011.

The demobilization of the hated Haitian military in 1995 was probably the most popular act of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was twice ousted in U.S.-backed coups which Martelly supported. Martelly's announcement in September 2011 that he intended to bring back the Haitian military was the first of many unpopular moves. Martelly also sang the praises of well-armed paramilitaries who emerged in militia camps in early 2012.

In October 2011, Martelly ordered the arrest of a sitting member of Parliament, Arnel Belizaire after a verbal altercation, but popular opposition forced Martelly to let Belizaire go free.

In February 2012, Martelly marched with a Carnival band that tried to crash an international conference at the State University. Denied entrance, Martelly's thugs attacked students, arresting and wounding several.

May-July, 2012 saw protests opposing forced evictions of earthquake survivors in refugee camps. In the community of Jalouzi, impoverished long time residents were given notice to leave to create a more pristine view for a new luxury hotel (funded in part by Bill Clinton's foundation).

Martelly also went after reporters. In a September 2012 report, The Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti documented "intimidation, threats, destruction of their media equipment, and retaliation by President Martelly and his administration against progressive journalists for critical reporting, which has created an atmosphere of fear and a chilling effect on journalists' freedom of expression."

Corruption scandals have bedeviled Martelly. Dominican Republic journalist Nuria Piera reported in April 2012 (later reported in *Time*) that Martelly was alleged to have accepted \$2.6 million in bribes during and after the 2010 general election to ensure that a Dominican construction company would receive contracts under his presidency. In his frequent travels, Martelly's entourage reportedly receives the following per diems from the Haitian government: Martelly \$20,000 a day, his wife \$10,000, his children \$7,500, and others in his inner circle \$4,000, while most Haitians live on \$1-2/day.

Questionable new taxes have also fed controversy. A \$1.50 tax on money transfers and a 5 cent per minute tax on phone calls to Haiti are alleged to support education, but the poor majority continue to face unaffordable school fees, and critics say no money from this tax has gone to schools, while Haitian teachers have been marching to demand back pay.

Strikes and other actions spread throughout Haiti in September and October, 2012, due

to popular outrage at Martelly's proposed changes to the Haitian constitution and the oppressive cost of living. On October 10, Haiti Liberte reported, "Large crowds are now calling on President Martelly to step down, accusing his government of embezzlement, waste, corruption, nepotism, drug trafficking, lying, bluffing, and failure to keep its promises." Cities throughout the country experienced anti-Martelly demonstrations in early October. On Oct. 4 in Petit Goave, when Martelly inaugurated 1 km of road funded by USAID, Martelly's security guards clubbed protesters, burned motorcycles, and fired tear gas which killed an octogenarian Haitian.

On Nov. 8, several grassroots organizations staged a protest of thousands against the Martelly government, demanding an end to waste and corruption, rehiring of public employees sacked through privatization of state run enterprises, and "down with pink hunger" — pink being the color of Martelly's political party, hunger being the chronic state of Haiti's masses.

While anti-Martelly demonstrations have rocked Haiti, right wing pressure on human rights activists has escalated. Besides attacks on journalists, three Haitian attorneys who have been outspoken in their defense of human rights have been targeted — Mario Joseph, Newton Saint Juste, and Andre Michel.

When a Haitian judge dismissed political violence charges against Duvalier on January 30, 2012, Attorney Joseph held a press conference denouncing the judge's order as legally baseless and politically motivated. After the press conference, Joseph received regular violent telephone threats, the untraceable caller saying "we are going to kill you" or similar threats.

Joseph is now the leading lawyer for victims in the prosecution of Duvalier. The Duvalier regime killed or imprisoned tens of thousands of political opponents, while stealing hundreds of millions of dollars designated for development of Haiti's infrastructure and economy. Duvalier still has many supporters in Haiti, some of whom are armed and have a history of killing political opponents. Many Duvalier victims contacted by Joseph and his colleagues, even some living in the U.S., refuse to testify out of fear of retaliation. In September, a group of the former dictator's supporters and lawyers closed down a press conference in Port-au-Prince, where Joseph's clients and other Duvalier victims were scheduled to speak.

Saint Juste and Michel have also been targets of death threats at their homes and offices. On October 17, Michel, representing 77 grassroots organizations, wrote to the U.N. peacekeeping head, Mariano Fernandez, denouncing the presence of the UN mission in Haiti. The letter read that the 1987 Constitution has been put on hold "because the presence of UN troops is a hindrance to its application."

Michel and Saint Juste recently traveled to Washington to describe the situation in Haiti to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Together with American lawyers, they plan to initiate prosecutions for money laundering against Martelly's family.

Saint Juste and Michel have been key figures in attacking alleged schemes by which Martelly set up his wife and son as heads of projects



Haiti, *continued*

that siphon off state monies over which the Haitian senate has no jurisdiction.

An AP article of April 17 this year, reports the beating death of a man in the hands of the police in Port-au-Prince. "Amnesty International said that Civil Merius was detained by police and 'allegedly' beaten after protesting an early-morning arson attack on Camp Acra, the settlement where he and thousands of others lived in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince." Merius and others had gone to the police asking them to investigate the arson, but the police refused to help them. Instead they arrested Merius and at least one other person, who was also injured. The "alleged landowner" is trying to evict the people in the camp.

Pierre Labossiere of the Haiti Action Committee says, "Our sisters and brothers in Haiti need international solidarity as they stand up to continued attacks on popular democracy. The Martelly regime has shown what it is about, and . . . the 99% in Haiti have had enough of the 1% elites around Martelly."

Pierre urges concerned readers to stay in touch for ongoing information and actions via www.haitisolidarity.net.

We've Moved !

EPI's new office is at 2539 Telegraph Ave, the old Center for Independent Living building. We are neighbors there with the Gray Panthers and the United Nations Association.

We had a very exciting program there recently, hearing from Toby Blome on the U.S. drones and their impact on the people of Pakistan. Toby and her husband and our own Marilyn Jackson began the program with Swedish Nyckelharpa and Fiddle music.

Help us notify you of upcoming programs we hope to offer by sending us your email address and friending us on Facebook.

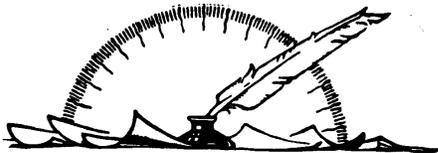
ON THE EDGE OF PEACE

Voices from the Faith-Based Peace & Justice Community

Ecumenical Peace Institute's book of poetry, prose, and art from the interfaith peace and justice community around the world is still available.

Here you can find the words of Esther Ho, Lee Williamson, Joan MacIntyre, Diane Thomas, Earl Johnson and many others. We hope you will enjoy being in the company of friends as you read it. *On the Edge of Peace* has been very well received. Some readers say that it is a history of the work of the faith-based in poetic and artistic format.

To get your copy, call the office, email or write. We are asking \$15 plus mailing costs. *Benefits EPI's work.*



Hiroshima Commemoration at Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab

Bay Area peace and justice advocates will mark the 68th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the Livermore Lab, where the U.S. is still spending billions of dollars to create "new and modified" nuclear bombs.

The commemoration begins at 7 AM on August 6th at the corner of Vasco Road and Patterson Pass Road (the northwest corner of Livermore Lab). The program will feature music, Taiko drummers, speakers and more. Immediately following, at approximately 8:15 AM, will be a "call to action," in which participants will be invited to march a short distance to the Livermore Lab West Gate. Those who choose will nonviolently risk arrest. Others will conduct a legal witness and support.

This event is organized collaboratively by the Livermore Conversion Project, Ecumenical Peace Institute and others. For more information, contact Tri-Valley CAREs at 925-443-7148 or Western States Legal Foundation at 510-839-5877.

Strange World

It's a strange world
Where produce is dumped
To keep prices high
Yet people go hungry
Where the gas prices soar
Yet there is a gas glut
Where black children are murdered
And the murderers are not punished
Where billions go for bombs and destruction
Yet government cuts food stamps
Where occupational standards are obliterated
And miners' deaths are tolerated
Where Indian lands are mined and polluted
Yet their pleas for mother earth go unheeded
Where nuclear wars are planned
And nuclear destruction is anticipated
Yet all life may be ended, save the cockroaches
Unless we say no
There's another way
Let's turn it all around
Together united
With common ends
Peace, justice
With common ends
And shares for all
In our common meal

Eugene Sharee

from *On the Edge of Peace*

I/We want to be part of the Peace and Justice work of Ecumenical Peace Institute/CALC by:

- ____ volunteering (mailings, vigils, publicity, calling)
- ____ connecting EPI with my religious group
- ____ making a tax-deductible contribution:
- __ \$35 annual membership (\$10 low-income subscription)
- __ \$10.00 __ \$25.00 __ \$35.00 __ \$50.00 __ \$100.00 ____ (other)

I will pledge \$_____ monthly, \$_____ quarterly

Please make checks payable to E.P.I.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ email _____

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Regarding that Envelope

There is an envelope included in each issue of *Planted by the Waters*. If each person who receives *Planted* puts a check into the envelope and mails it to EPI/CALC, it will greatly improve our ability to do the work for justice and peace which we are called to do together. It doesn't have to be a lot. Every little bit counts.



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Calendar & Announcements

August 6, 7:00 a.m. Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab, Hiroshima Commemoration. See page 11 for details.

August 10, 6:00 p.m., *Haiti – Spotlight on U.S.-backed Occupation*, dinner and a movie. On the eve of the sixth anniversary of the disappearance of human rights activist Lovinsky Pierre-Antoine, Haiti Action Committee invites you see *Bitter Cane*, which paints a vivid picture of the pattern of repression from the time of the 1915 - 1934 occupation by U.S. marines up to the brutality of the Duvalier regimes. The film sheds light on the goals of the occupation maintained since the 2004 kidnapping/coup. Donation \$10-20 requested; no one turned away. Humanist Hall, 390 27th Street, Oakland, wheelchair accessible from 28th Street.

Occasional special programs at EPI's new office on various topics. Send us your email address (write to epicalc@gmail.com) to ensure you get announcements. See page 11.

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- **Ecumenical Peace Institute is on Facebook!**
- If you are on Facebook, join us and participate in the dialogue there. We will try to keep it updated as we also do with our website. If you aren't on Facebook, ask someone who is to see what's there.
- And you are invited to read *Planted by the Waters* online at <http://www.epicalc.org/> and download articles to share. Upcoming events which EPI is putting on or is involved in planning will be found at the website.
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Actions

Living Graveyard Each third Monday, 12:00 - 1:00, at the Oakland Federal Building, EPI folks and others hold the "Living Graveyard." Covered with white sheets, participants lie on the city sidewalk, far enough apart to allow for pedestrian and wheelchair traffic. Tombstones mark the numbers of the dead. This legal street theater makes visible the reality of the deaths caused by the war. Names of the dead are read to the sound of a gong.

Weekly Vigils

- The Monday noon vigil at the Oakland Federal Building is being suspended for the summer.** Will resume in the fall depending on projected participation.
- Thursdays, 12:00 - 1:00,** Union Square, Grandmothers Against War, end occupation of Afghanistan.
- Thursdays, 3:30 - 4:30,** The Sidewalk by the 5 Flags Park Mission, Foothill and Main St, Hayward. Justice for Palestinians. South Alameda County Peace and Justice (SAPJC) & Tri-City Peace and Justice (TCP). Harry 510-909-6272
- Fridays, 12:00 - 1:00,** Telegraph & Bancroft, Berkeley Women in Black, for justice and peace in Palestine.
- Sundays, 3:00 p.m.,** walk around Lake Merritt for peace. Meet at the columns at the east end of the Lake, between Grand & Lakeshore Avenues. sponsored by Lake Merritt Neighbors Organized for Peace, (LMNOP).