

The Peace Resource Center of San Diego

2009 Program and Service Review



The year 2009 marked the Peace Resource Center's 29th anniversary.

For 29 years, the Peace Resource Center has been a consistent presence in the San Diego community, speaking out against violence in all of its forms and providing a voice for peaceful, nonviolent ways to solve interpersonal, community and global problems.

2010 will be an exciting year as we move through the final stage of completing the construction of our new home, the Friends Center.

As we entered 2009, a new Administration in Washington gave us hope for reversing policies set during the Bush years. We have seen some changes, but the full potential remains elusive. As we end the year, we are seriously disappointed over the new Administration's escalation of troops in Afghanistan and the continued presence of troops in Iraq. As we move into 2010, it will take all peace and social justice-loving people working together to help achieve our shared goals and we will need to continue to speak out for peace, social justice, nonviolence, tolerance and reconciliation and to help build the mass movement needed to address the momentous challenges and opportunities ahead.

As we move into our 30th year, we will continue to provide the kind of active presence for peace, social justice and nonviolent solutions that is needed, especially in these times!

Peace Resource Center members can be proud of our past 29 years of work and look forward to building an even larger peace and social justice community as we continue our work in the new year to build a "Culture of Peace" and a better world for future generations.

The Friends Center

Our Future Permanent Home

The Friends Center is a collaborative effort of the Peace Resource Center, the First Church of the Brethren, the San Diego Friends Meeting, and the American Friends Service Committee, San Diego Area. It will be an enduring visual statement of our dedication to advancing peace, social justice and spiritual growth. As an environmentally-sound "green" building, it will be a witness to our commitment to wise stewardship of the earth's resources. Built and operated in collaboration, the building will daily demonstrate how organizations with common values can share resources and work together to create new models for social change. (See the building website at www.sdfriendscenter.org for more info.)



*Exterior View of Friends Center
November 2008
Photo: Alvin Stern*



*Volunteer Ken Aeschbacher
connecting an electrical circuit.*

The Friends Center is moving toward completion after a year of steady progress on our building's interior. This past year saw the completion of the major interior systems for plumbing, ventilation, electrical wiring, fire sprinklers and hydronic heating. After passing City inspections for these systems we moved forward on the plastering of our interior straw bale walls, insulating ceilings, and hanging wall board. With completion of the interior shell we have begun the finish work of installing tile, painting and hanging doors. Our building is approaching its final form.

In keeping with a "green" building approach we have chosen bamboo for the interior woodwork—sills and surrounds for doors and windows and for the sound damping louvered wainscot in the meeting room. At each step in the construction process we have sought to add innovations that will enhance the performance and beauty of this architecturally significant San Diego building. Thanks to generous contributions we have been able to accomplish much in this past year. Though substantial work remains we should complete our building some time in 2010.



*Volunteers at work constructing the
courtyard's rice straw bale wall at this year's
Work-a-thon for Peace & Justice.*

Our building continues to attract much attention from people seeing it from Interstates 15 and 805 and we continue to provide information about our design choices and use of materials that support earth-friendly practices through an online video, "Friends Center: Design & Materials," a talk by Project Architect Juergen Zierler of Hubbell and Hubbell, at the annual Green Built Tour and to a steady stream of visitors.

"Gardeners 4 Peace," a group of volunteers who came together to take care of our permaculture garden, continue their efforts. In addition to weeding and taking care of the fruit trees, they have started an active program of composting on the property and composting workshops have been held. The mulch waddles they made last year are amazingly successful at holding water on the property. The trees are bearing delicious fruit; come by some time and sample the "fruits" of their labor. To help or for info on gardening and composting workshops, contact them at gardeners4peace@hotmail.com



*Annual Work-a-thon for Peace & Justice
May 2009
Photo: Rick Jahnkow*

Volunteers, along with our paid construction manager, continue to work on the building all week. Occasional weekend work parties also help. The building is a true participatory endeavor! You can help by volunteering as we continue the process of finishing the building. If you or a group you work with would like to be on our volunteer list and receive e-mail notices of building progress and volunteer opportunities, please contact us.

PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

TEACHING PEACE, CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND NONVIOLENCE

Children and Nonviolence Program:

Our Children and Nonviolence Program is designed to reach parents and teachers of young children through workshops and providing information that encourages purchasing toys that promote positive, cooperative play, use the child's imagination, and teach pro-social values. We also promote ways to monitor a family's use of media—TV, video games and movies. Over the years we have developed a number of resources that continue to be used by parents and teachers, including our "Teach Peace" brochure and our "What Values Are Your Toy Choices Teaching" flier.

High School Peace Writing Contest:

This important project gives young people, grades 9-12, the opportunity to contribute their solutions to problems facing our world. Winning entries for several school years are available in booklet form on our website: www.prcsd.org. Our topic for the 2009-2010 school year is "What Can My Generation Do To Help Create a Peaceful World Free of War and Violence?"

Creating a Culture of Peace:

In February we held our first Creating a Culture of Peace (CCP) Workshop in collaboration with San Diego Veterans for Peace. We will continue offering these nonviolence trainings to the community with another workshop scheduled for March 2010.

CREATING PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The PRC's work on peace, social justice and disarmament issues is done through participation in annual community events, through coordination of special programs, by providing speakers for events, conducting media interviews, writing and distributing fliers and articles and by mobilizing our membership to respond to local and world events.

A major focus since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon has been working with the San Diego Coalition for Peace

and Justice. Since its formation, just days after the attacks, the coalition has been an important voice for uniting people in San Diego who are opposed to the Bush Administration's drive to



Demonstrators on 8th anniversary of the first bombing of Afghanistan, October 2009

keep us in a state of perpetual war and maintain US hegemony and domination in the world. The coalition has organized a variety of events, including demonstrations, teach-ins, public meetings, leafleting at public places, including street fairs and outside high schools.

The PRC continues to contribute significant resources to the coalition, helping to make sure the overall effort is successful by working on and supporting coalition committees, making sure the coalition has a place to meet, helping to keep demonstrations peaceful by training and providing peacekeepers and police liaison work, serving as a media contact and press spokesperson, and providing administrative support.

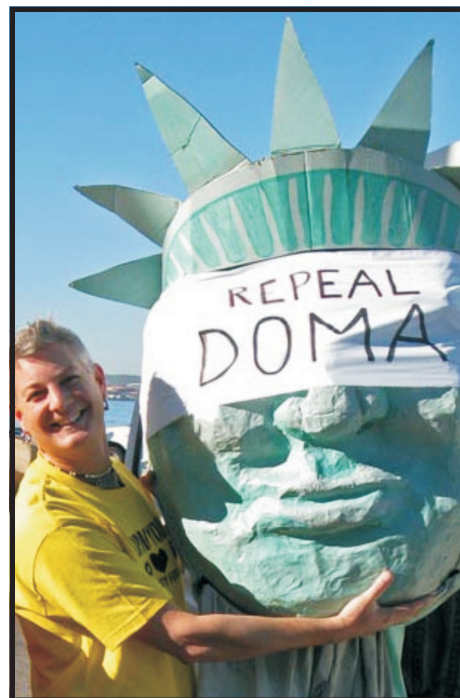
Some of the events on which we worked with the coalition and other community groups this year included: Demonstration on the Anniversary of the Iraq War, March; a special program on UAV (drones) warfare, July; and a demonstration on the anniversary of the first bombing of Afghanistan, October. In December, President Obama announced that he would send more

troops to Afghanistan. In response, a "Day After the Announcement" demonstration was held in front of Rep. Susan Davis' office (December 2).

The PRC has also supported the Amnesty International "Walk for Human Rights," October; Vigil at the Border commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall and calling attention to the Triple Fence at the US/Mexico border; the annual Martin Luther King Breakfast and other events. The PRC and members have



Demonstrators on 8th Anniversary of the first bombing of Afghanistan, October 2009



PRC Board Member Drew Searing at San Diego March for Equality January 2009

THE PEACE RESOURCE CENTER: A CLEARINGHOUSE AND INFORMATION RESOURCE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Founded in 1980 by six local organizations committed to peace, the Peace Resource Center (PRC) now has over 40 member organizations and hundreds of individual and family members. The Peace Resource Center works for peace and justice by:

- **Educating** the public on peace and social justice issues
- **Facilitating** communication and networking among peace-related groups
- **Functioning** as a central clearinghouse for information about community, national and international peace and social justice efforts and activities

- **Consulting** on peace education, program planning and nonviolent conflict resolution
- **Publishing an up-to-date Peace Calendar** on the web at www.prcsd.org/webcalendar
- **Providing** speakers, trainers and workshops on a variety of peace-related topics, including nonviolent methods
- **Promoting** dialogue and understanding of the causes of violence and militarism and promoting ideas for constructive nonviolent actions and solutions
- **Mobilizing** our membership for action

participated in many other events including activities for immigrant rights, against the presence of the military in our schools and for civil rights/marriage equality including the January 10 March for Equality.

We continue to monitor the activities of the war profiteering corporation Blackwater USA in our community. Activists were successful this year in getting Southwestern College to revoke a contract they had with Blackwater!

Other Affiliations: We are a part of many local, national and international coalitions and networks, including the Abolition Caucus, United for Peace and Justice, National Priorities Project, Child Soldiers Coalition, Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, Bite the Bullet Campaign and the Military Toxics Project. Locally we are part of the Stop Blackwater network, Friends of Border Field Park and the Hate-Free San Diego Coalition. During the year we participated in campaigns and responded to action alerts from these various organizations.

KEEPING THE PRC GOING...

Volunteer Recruitment, Coordination and Training: Volunteers are the backbone of the PRC. Our dedicated volunteers assist in many ways, including participation on our Board of Directors, providing office support, help with mailings and at events, and serve on program committees. Volunteers are also playing a key role in helping to build our new facility.

Fundraising: The PRC's modest operating budget supports all of our program work and the salary of a full-time Executive Director—our only paid staff person. **Most of our income comes from the community through membership dues, monthly pledges and contributions by members.** In addition to this our work was funded by:

- 2009 Work-a-thon for Peace & Social Justice, May 16—a joint project with Project YANO
- Spaghetti Dinner at the Big Kitchen Restaurant, September 9

- Souper Supper 29th Anniversary Dinner, November 22, featuring Christian Ramirez from the American Friends Service Committee speaking on border justice issues and music by Bread and Jam
- Annual Peace on Earth Holiday Bazaar, December 2009

BE A PEACEMAKER! GET INVOLVED!

The Peace Resource Center of San Diego depends on community support to carry out its peace education programs. To become a member, please fill out the coupon below and return to the PRC.

The PRC is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, educational organization. All memberships and contributions are tax-deductible as allowable by law.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Sign me up! Enclosed are my membership dues:

\$40 Individual \$45 Family

\$25 Senior/student/low income \$50 Organization

I love the PRC! Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____

Enclosed is an additional donation of \$ _____ for the Peace Center's building project.

Please send me information about how I can volunteer for the new building project and other Peace Center activities.

The Peace Resource Center Of San Diego

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