

The Peace Resource Center of San Diego

2005 Program and Service Review



The year 2005 marked the Peace Resource Center's 25th anniversary.

For 25 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.

2005 was a difficult year for all peace-loving people as we watched the continuing war in Iraq. Throughout the year, we continued to speak out for peace, social justice, nonviolence, tolerance and reconciliation and worked to help build the mass movement needed to address these momentous challenges.

2006 will be another challenging year. But it will also be a year of opportunity for us to make new alliances with the growing numbers of people who are disillusioned by this country's militarism and to continue our ongoing task of building a "Culture of Peace."

As we move into our 26th year, we will continue to provide the kind of active presence for peace and nonviolent solutions that is needed, especially in these times! It will also be an exciting year as we move closer to realizing our goal of a permanent Peace Center. The new building, the Friends Center, will be an enduring visual statement of our dedication to advancing peace and social justice values.

Peace Resource Center members can be proud of our past 25 years of work and look forward to building an even larger peace community as we continue our work in the new year for a better world for future generations.

The Friends Center Our Permanent Home

We can look back at 2005 with satisfaction on a full year of hard work culminating in the completion of “Phase I” of the Friends Center construction! With the foundation and slab—including its radiant-floor heating coils—completed and the structural steel in place, Phase II— construction of the entire shell of the building—has begun. The donated light-gauge steel with which we will build all of the walls (except the straw-bale walls) and roof, will arrive shortly.

Last year’s permaculture planting of 127 trees and bushes on the building slope is thriving and many have enjoyed the “fruits” of their labor. Thanks to a grant from the Foundation for Sustainability and Innovation and the hard work of many volunteers, this year we were able to further expand our permaculture project on the property of the First Church of the Brethren!



San Diego Peace Corps Association Work Party, September 2005. Photo: Lisa Rivera

Our project received front page recognition by the architectural critic at the S.D. Union-Tribune in front page story with pictures in the Home section on November 20th! One of the results from this story is the donation by a local contractor of all the interior doors for our building. Another reader offered to procure all needed office furniture when it was time for us to move in. Both were convinced of the value of our “Partnership Program” to their future bottom line.

We are building with all volunteer labor, with three full-time volunteers doing much of the work and supervising other volunteers. So far over 150 volunteers have helped with this project, including individuals making a regular part-time commitment and events like the annual Work-A-Thon sponsored by the PRC and Project Yano and special work parties by the SD Peace Corps Association, UCSD’s Engineers Without Borders, the SD Buddhist Peace Fellowship, and the Unitarian Universalist Church in Hillcrest.



Volunteers at our annual Work-a-thon for Peace and Justice June 4, 2005. Photo: Hal Brody

This project is only possible through donations of money, materials and services, and volunteer labor from people like you. So far we have raised about 90% of the needed resources. If you can help in any way, please contact Hal Brody: hbrody@sbcglobal.net or 619-549-3826 You can see our building website at www.sdfriendscenter.org

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.



Friends Center banner with website address can be clearly seen from I-15. Photo: Hal Brody

PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

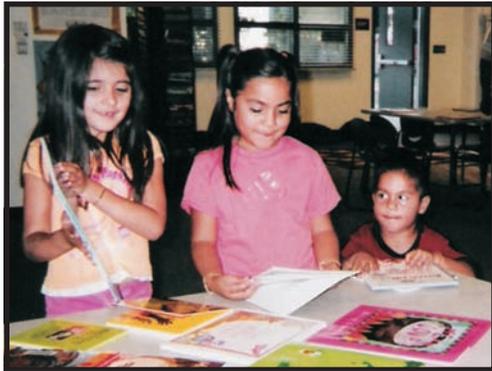
TEACHING PEACE, CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND NONVIOLENCE

Children and Nonviolence Program:

- We continue our close relationship with our Partnership in Education School, Darnall Elementary School. The highlight of the year was our gift of 25 peace-themed books to the school library in honor of the Peace Center's 25th anniversary, a gift made possible by donations from our members. Also, our committee chair, Betty Imlay, read The Lorax and The Butter Battle Book to classes on Dr. Seuss' birthday, staffed a table of PRC literature at back-to-school night in September and volunteered at Darnall's Halloween Carnival.

- Continued promotion of our School and Classroom Pledges of Nonviolence. Our Partnership school, Darnall Elementary uses the pledge as an ongoing part of their school program, with all classes adopting the pledge.

- Continuation of the wonderful relationships we have developed with many other preschools and teacher programs all over S.D. County—returning year after year for presentations to parents' groups and/or teachers. Our newest contact is Parent Participation classes at the Fremont Elementary site in Old Town. Workshops were given at the California Head Start Association conference in Pasadena in February and at the April San Diego Association for the Education of Young Children conference in April.



Children at Darnall Elementary looking at display of peace books donated to the school. Photo: Betty Imlay

- After a two-year hiatus, we resumed our annual High School Peace Writing Contest for the 2005-2006 school year. This year's topic is "What Can My Generation Do To Help Create a Peaceful World Free of War and Violence?"

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



Candlelight Vigil, 65th Anniversary of the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Bombings, August 9, 2005. Photo: Bob Davis

the Bush Administration's drive to 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 contributes 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 to help organize include: Peace Contingent in the Annual Martin Luther King Parade, Jan. 15; March/Rally on the second anniversary of the Iraq War, March 19; Peace March and Rally, Sept. 24, and a vigil marking the 2,000th U.S. death in Iraq.

In addition, this year the PRC organized the Annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki Day Vigil, Aug. 9 and participated in various forums and community events, including speaking at the "Preventing Deadly Conflict: Non-Military Solutions for Global Security," sponsored by the SD Economic Conversion and Permaculture Center in October and participation in the "Many Stories, One Vision for a Nuclear-Free World" conference and demonstration at the Nevada Nuclear Test Site in August. The PRC and our director were honored to receive the San Diego Peace Corps Association's 2005 Global Awareness Award in May.



"End the War on Iraq" March and Rally, September 24, 2005. Photo: Bob Davis

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 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** a bi-monthly Peace Calendar and Newsletter
- **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
- **Presenting** programs on a variety of peace and social justice issues

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 and the Military Toxics Project. During the year we participated in campaigns and responded to action alerts from these various organizations. We continued our support for the Pacific Campaign for Disarmament and Security, a networking and action group focusing on Asia-Pacific security issues, and for which the PRC director serves as the Administrator/U.S. Country coordinator.

- Fundraising also included the sale of peace materials at community events and street fairs, at various holiday bazaars/alternative gift fairs and co-coordinating the annual Peace on Earth Holiday Bazaar.

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 and Advisory Board, 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 operating budget for 2005 was a modest \$48,000. This sum 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:

- "Iraqi Music in a Time of War," Rahim AlHaj, March 15
- 2005 Work-a-thon for Peace & Social Justice, June 4—a joint project with Project YANO
- Spaghetti Dinner at the Big Kitchen, co-sponsored with San Diego Street Light Newspaper, June 22
- Souper Supper 25th Anniversary Dinner, Nov. 20
- "Concert in the Spirit of the Season: Peace on Earth," featuring international music, December 9

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:

\$35 Individual \$45 Family

\$20 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 new 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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