



Issue 8

Spring 2013

In This Issue:

First Annual Peace Feast-----	1
Intro to the Alternatives to Violence Project-----	1
Tanana Valley State Fair, booth-sitters needed---	1
Stop Drone Training in Alaskan Interior -----	1
Military in our Schools, Understanding Options -	2
Nonviolent Communication-----	2
Peaceful Power Potential -----	3
Bradley Manning Update -----	3

Peace Feast to be held at Pioneer Park on Sunday, June 2 from 1 to 5 pm

Come help us celebrate the First Annual Sunday Sharing Peace Feast at Pioneer Park. Alaska Peace Center volunteers will be hosting this event at the back picnic area (the Wilderness Pavilion) off the Peger Road parking lot. **Dick Farris will cook his famous barbecue chicken and ribs!** We are asking people to bring something to add to the potluck like: drinks, chips, bread, salad or desserts. Please also bring your own cups, plates and utensils as we want to encourage Earth care by not providing plastic or Styrofoam products.

This will be an opportunity to share ideas and interests on the issues our Peace Center should target in the future with the APC staff. We also need to recruit new board members and we seek insight in prioritizing the uses of our limited funds. We encourage those with a passion for peace to get involved at the personal level to make a difference in our own community.

Introduction to the Alternatives to Violence Project

Carroll Boone will provide an introduction to AVP (Alternatives to Violence Project) on Tuesday, June 18, 6:00 to 9:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist fellowship at 4448 Pikes Landing Road (across from the Princess Hotel). The agenda will include a sample AVP agenda and experiential exercises, as well as a brief report on AVP Nepal and the possibility of starting an AVP council in Fairbanks. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

Carroll (Haggard) Boone is an AVP Facilitator who just returned from being on a Friends Peace Team in Kathmandu, Nepal. AVP (<http://www.avpusa.org/>) was

started in 1975 when Inmates at Greenhaven Prison (NY) asked the Local Friends to design a non-violence workshop that could be offered inside the prison. The resulting 20 hour workshop was so successful that it spread to prisons and communities throughout the US (approximately 40 states) and internationally (approximately 40 countries).

AVP is distinguished from other nonviolence workshops in several ways. All workshops are facilitated by trained volunteer facilitators who are mentored by more experienced AVP facilitators. AVP Manuals are available that include agendas, exercises, and instructions. AVP Workshops do not include lectures but instead exercises that are experiential, drawing on the wisdom of the participants. For more information contact Carrie Farr at 750-1049 or email chugny@yahoo.com.

Tanana Valley State Fair Coming Soon

The Tanana Valley State Fair will be held on August 2-11 this year. The Peace Center has its usual booth reserved and will be looking for booth-sitters for 3 shifts per day for the 10 days of the fair. This is our one opportunity to interact with the general public and to give some awareness and publicity to the many peace and justice issues with which we are concerned. Summer is a busy time for all of us, but we are hoping that people can make some time in their busy schedules for this important work. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Peace Feast on June 2. Contact Alan Batten (alanbatten@acsalaska.net) to volunteer.

Stop the Military from Building a Winged Robot Assassin Base in Alaska's Interior

Rob Mulford

The US Department of Defense is in the final stages of implementing a plan called the Joint Alaska Pacific Range Complex Modernization and Enhancement (JPARC).

JPARC would in effect make a large part of Alaska's Interior a test bench and training area for autonomous and semiautonomous weapons systems known as Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs, drones), Unmanned Ground Vehicles, and the associated ground systems that link them to military and Central Intelligence Agency

operators. The plan includes a flight corridor that stretches from Fairbanks to south of Fort Greely where they will be flying Predator, Reaper, Gray Eagle, and other winged robot assassins complete with Hell Fire Missiles.

Contrary to the commonly heard argument that these systems save lives and are more humane methods of executing warfare, they have proven to be agents of war crimes. Their use in Afghanistan, Pakistan (where I have personally witnessed the effect of their implementation), Yemen, etc. is responsible for the indiscriminate murder of innocent men, women, and children, a scenario conducive to more hate and war not less. Going to war should be the most painful decision made by a Nation. Any technology that masks the pain of war is the worst of deceptions. Like murderous chickens coming home to roost they pose severe civil liberty threats at home as well.

We can find better uses of our research institutions, technology, and our military bases in Alaska (e.g. alternative energy / global climate change) than those that serve the industries of death. If interested in joining an effort to halt the implementation of the JPARC "enhancements" and proposing alternatives to an economy based on militarism please contact me (mulford.rob@gmail.com, 907-457-5578, 907-687-6606).

□

Military in Our Schools

Chuck Hugny

In recent years there have been efforts made in both Fairbanks and Nenana to offer students information about their rights while attending public schools in regard to military recruitment. There is some basic information that students and parents should know about this issue. The following information was provided by the *Project on Youth and Non-Military Opportunities*.

The *No Child Left Behind Act* included a provision (fed. public law 107-110, Sec. 9528) that makes it harder for schools to restrict military access to student lists. Now, if military recruiters (or institutions of higher education) request students' names, addresses and phone numbers, **and the students have NOT opted out**, schools must surrender the information or risk losing federal funds granted under the education bill. The law also expressly states, however, that schools must notify parents and students that they have the right to NOT be included when student information is released to either the military or institutions of higher education, and schools must honor any such request.

Another section of the new law requires schools to grant the military "the same access to secondary school students" that is given to prospective employers or post-secondary educational institutions. Again, the penalty for not complying is the loss of funds provided under the education bill.

WHAT STUDENTS, PARENTS AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL CAN DO TO CONTROL RECRUITER CONTACTS WITH STUDENTS.

1. Along with other forms and notices that are distributed in back-to-school and new student registration packets, students **should** be presented with a short form that would direct them to indicate if they wish to be contacted at home or school by armed forces recruiters. **If this is not part of your schools packets ask why.** Remember, if you don't opt out access to your child's file is granted.
2. Many students say they need to go into the military to pay for college. However, there are many other options for financial aid to attend post-secondary education and the military educational benefits are much weaker than they were a generation ago. **When recruiters are scheduled in your school ask if counter recruitment speakers and material could also be made available to students. If the school administration refuses, ask why and check with your school board.**

□

Nonviolent Communication

Carrie Farr

There is so much violence of all kinds in our culture and this focus and indoctrination can begin in early childhood. So as teens and adults, we are handicapped at times about how to communicate compassionately, connect with those around us, and solve conflicts peacefully. Violence can be in our own home and at a national and international level. I have even witnessed people working for peace conduct seemingly rude and negative communication with those that they don't agree with. For these reasons, I have been drawn to Marshall Rosenberg's Nonviolent Communication (NVC). The basic theory says that our feelings and actions are indicators of needs that we all have. Connections happen when participants can hear each other and connect to each other's needs. There is a certain way to make requests so that a person can likely have their needs met. There is a loosely formed group of NVCers in the Fairbanks area that

have taken part in NVC practice. We often form new practice groups that one can be a part of. Please contact Carrie at 750-1049 or email chugny@yahoo.com for more info.

□

Peaceful Power Potential

Suzanne and Phil Osborn

Alaska has some of the most promising conditions for the use of renewable energy. We have abundant sun in most parts of the state, hydro potential and plenty of wind. We should avoid the notion that our arctic location minimizes our sustainability potential.

The village of Kotzebue decided to implement wind turbines 20 years ago, and now they enjoy real savings on diesel fuel no longer burned. They were pioneers in wind generated electricity and faced a learning curve on what would work and what problems would arise. Some changes in turbines and controls were needed, but even the early models are still producing power, and now the bugs are ironed out and the system is up and humming.

There are many examples of sustainable projects ongoing this year in several Alaskan villages. Kobuk, Shungnak, Noorvik, Deering and Noatak are all installing solar electric systems to offset the cost of powering water and sewage treatment facilities. This is a major effort with major impact, considering diesel fuel costs between \$6.55 and \$11.00 per gallon in these villages.

Innovation in wind powered electricity has led to heater modules in each home tied to a wind turbine grid. As the wind velocity increases, there is a need to use all that

power, or there can be damage to the diesel turbines, which are tied together with the wind turbines. The heater modules can absorb large amounts of electricity and give it back in the form of electric heat over several hours.

Alternative energy improvements are partially dependant on Federal and State funding opportunities, so efforts to advance these resources are crucial to the sustainability revolution. While our state still has oil money to spend, we should all encourage utilization of Alaska's peaceful power promise.

□

Bradley Manning Trial Begins June 3

Alan Batten

A large demonstration in support of Bradley will be held at Fort Meade, Maryland (where the trial will be held) on June 1st, with parallel demonstrations in cities nationwide. The Alaska Peace Center will be represented at the Fort Meade event. More information can be found at <http://www.bradleymanning.org/> and will be available at the Peace Feast on June 2. The actions for which Bradley is on trial are strongly reminiscent of the actions of Daniel Ellsberg, who by releasing the Pentagon Papers in 1971 was instrumental in belatedly rescuing our country from the Vietnam War. I found Bradley's Feb 28 statement of the circumstances of his actions to be quite moving and insightful. Alexis O'Brien's transcript (unofficial, but the only one we have) of his statement is available at <http://tinyurl.com/bmp8mkf>. As reported in *The Nation* magazine, four laureates of the Nobel Peace Prize salute Bradley Manning and condemn the persecution he is suffering (<http://tinyurl.com/atthdhq>).

□

The Alaska Peace Center is committed to nonviolent conflict resolution and to working for peace within ourselves, our communities and our world. APC opened in 2005. It is a nonprofit organization with 501(c)(3) status.

Board members and officers:

Carrie Farr, Alan Batten, Rob Mulford,
Heather Koponen



Newsletter published by the Alaska Peace Center, 3535 College Rd, Rm 203.
PO Box 80808, Fairbanks, AK 99708-0808, email: info@alaskapeace.org
www.alaskapeace.org