



# MUSTE NOTES

*News from the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute*

VOL. 18, NUMBER 3/4

Spring/Summer 2011

## Wisconsin: Standing with Workers, Against War



PHOTO BY JONATHAN BLOY

The Madison chapter of Veterans for Peace joined with Iraq Veterans Against the War, a past Muste Institute grantee, in heading up an anti-war, pro-worker march in Wisconsin's state capital on March 19, 2011, the eighth anniversary of the U.S. war on Iraq. Both groups are members of the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice.

by Bonnie Block and Judy Miner

In 2002 the Muste Institute granted \$1,500 to Wisconsin Network for Peace & Justice (WNPJ) for the Corporate Accountability Task Force, educating and mobilizing public opinion throughout Wisconsin around economic justice issues. This article was written for Muste Notes by Bonnie Block, who served as director of WNPJ from 1996 to 2002, and Judy Miner, who was WNPJ's office coordinator and director from 2002 to 2010.

The Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice was formed as a statewide organization 20 years ago, in response to the first Gulf war. The founders of the Network realized immediately that the roots of militarism in our country were intertwined with economic and social justice issues. In looking for ways to end U.S. militarism, two things became clear—the Network would need to envision nonviolent alternatives to war, and educate citizens on the connection

between runaway corporate power and economic injustice. Two WNPJ task groups took on this work in WNPJ's first decade, offering statewide nonviolence trainings and corporate accountability workshops.

WNPJ's Corporate Accountability Task Group created resource materials and offered workshops throughout Wisconsin, showing the direct link between spending on the military industrial complex and the resulting impoverishment of all other public programs. It also showed how military spending actually created fewer jobs than spending those same tax dollars on providing for human needs and civilian infrastructure. Hundreds of people attended these workshops and thousands read the brochures and resource packet. During this last decade, several union groups recognized WNPJ's commitment to economic justice

**continued on page 2**

May 2, 2011

Dear Friends,

We are grateful for your support. To all of you who have given generously to the Muste Institute since we last wrote to you in December: Thank you!

Thanks also to those of you who have expressed support for our efforts to resolve the situation with our building. We very much appreciate your interest, remain in need of your support, and urge you to check the building page of our website to learn about options being explored for the Peace Pentagon.

With deep gratitude for her 17 years of dedicated service, in April the Muste Institute regretfully accepted the resignation of Board treasurer Christine Halvorson. Her longtime job at the Rainforest Foundation requires lots of work and travel, and she felt she could no longer spare the extra hours needed for her Board duties. We will definitely miss Christine, and wish her all the best.

We hope you enjoy this Spring/Summer issue of Muste Notes. Keep your eyes peeled for a letter from the Muste Institute in the coming weeks, followed by the Fall issue of Muste Notes in September.

Sincerely,

  
Jeanne Strole  
Co-Director

  
Jane Guskin  
Co-Director



PHOTO BY JONATHAN BLOY

Madison, Wisconsin—March 19, 2011: A Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice sign spells it out: “\$1 million to keep one soldier in Afghanistan for one year. 150 soldiers home closes Wisconsin's current budget deficit. End the war on workers. Bring our war money home.”

## Wisconsin (continued from page 1)

and joined the Network - including SEIU - WI, South Central Federation of Labor, Union of Immigrant Workers, and American Federation of Teachers #212.

So by the time of the fervor for "shock and awe," leading up to the current Iraq War, WNPJ members were quite aware of the negative human and economic consequences that would surely follow another war. And they also saw the corporate desire to control oil supplies as a key factor in the call for war. As a result, WNPJ's member organizations organized protests. In 2003, there were *sixty weekly peace vigils*

all over Wisconsin. Thirty of these vigils continue to this day, with creative, nonviolent activists carrying signs with messages such as "End the War on Workers, Bring the War \$\$ Home."

At WNPJ we feel there is a direct link between this statewide, grassroots education and the actions taking place at the Capitol in Madison and throughout Wisconsin now. When the effort was made to balance the budget by going to war against public employee unions, WNPJ members and friends quickly recognized "war" propaganda when they saw it. They



PHOTO BY DAVID GIFFEY

Members of Iraq Veterans Against the War (IVAW) take the stage at the anti-war, pro-worker rally on March 19 in Madison.

understood the connections between public policy, corporate power, and how elections are financed. Plus they had years of experience in nonviolent street protest. So when the public employee unions issued the call to action, many ordinary Wisconsinites were ready to respond.

We consider it a rare privilege to have been able to stand with tens of thousands of like minded citizens doing exactly what our Constitution says: "petitioning the government for redress of grievances." And we're not done yet! Much of the energy has now shifted to the courts, the spring elections, and recall efforts, but active and engaged citizenship will continue here in Wisconsin.

WNPJ currently has 166 member groups. To learn more, visit our website at [www.wnpj.org](http://www.wnpj.org).



PHOTO BY SUEVILBRANDT

Protesters demand "No More War Spending" at the March 19 demonstration in Madison.



PHOTO BY SUSAN RUGGLES/IR IMAGES

Veterans and other activists also rallied and marched in Milwaukee on March 19 to mark the 8th anniversary of the Iraq War and demand: "Bring the war \$\$ home—fund our communities, not war!"

## MLK Pamphlet: Back in Print, and Off to Cuba

Our best-selling Martin Luther King pamphlet is back in print, thanks to your help and a generous allocation from the donor-suggested Swann Fund.

This great resource on nonviolence includes three of Rev. King's most important essays: *Loving Your Enemies*; *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*; and *Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam*, the famous anti-war speech he delivered at Riverside Church on April 4, 1967.

You can get your own copy of this pamphlet—and extra copies for local schools or libraries—by using the order form on the back page of *Muste Notes*.

Meanwhile, the Spanish-language version of our King pamphlet has been doing some traveling. In February, Muste Institute

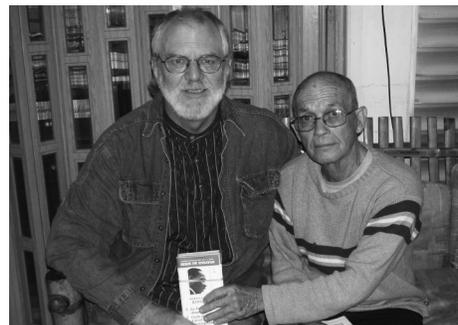


PHOTO COURTESY OF KEN SEHESTED

supporter Rev. Ken Sehested (in photo, left), pastor of the Circle of Mercy Congregation in Asheville, North Carolina, delivered 100 copies of the pamphlet to Rev. Raúl Suárez (see photo, right), founder and director of the Martin Luther King Center in Havana, Cuba. "Being able to deliver those Spanish versions of the King pamphlet was delightful," Sehested told the Muste Institute.

### A.J. Muste Memorial Institute

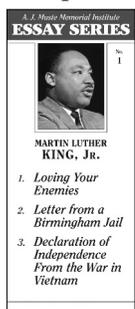
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A.J. Muste Memorial Institute  
**ESSAY SERIES**



MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

1. *Loving Your Enemies*
2. *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*
3. *Declaration of Independence From the War in Vietnam*

# Counter Recruitment Grants, September-December 2010

**BAYPeace: Better Alternatives for Youth**, Oakland, CA: \$1,500 (via Peace Development Fund) for the Youth Manifesto Campaign, part of a national educational campaign about the Joint Advertising Market Research and Studies (JAMRS) military recruiting database.

**Chico Peace & Justice Center**, Chico, CA: \$1,498 for tabling, outreach events and promotion of a scholarship program enabling students who are considering military enlistment to seek out alternatives.

**Coalition for Alternatives to Militarism in Our Schools (CAMS)**, Pasadena, CA: \$1,500 for Project Great Futures, a series of alternative social justice career fairs in high schools and colleges in the Los Angeles area.

**Houston Committee for Youth and Nonmilitary Opportunities**, Bellaire, TX: \$1,000 to expand outreach to teachers, guidance counselors, school

administrators and students in the Houston area to confront militarization in the schools.

**Peace and Justice Center of South Central Kansas**, Wichita, KS: \$1,500 to expand ongoing efforts to encourage high school students and their parents to opt out of releasing their contact information to military recruiters, and to provide high school counselors with resources detailing non-military opportunities for youth.

**Peaceful Vocations**, Fort Worth, TX: \$1,500 for *Community Activation 2010/2011*, mobilizing parents and students to address issues such as JROTC-sponsored firing ranges in schools, military-sponsored ASVAB testing in schools without parental consent, and students' privacy rights.

**Workers Defense Project**, Austin, TX: \$1,500 to help immigrant workers and their children better understand how to best access higher education, prepare for college, and take advantage of non-military career options.

## Support the Counter Recruitment Fund!

Thanks to the Muste Institute's support for grassroots counter recruitment efforts, young people now have more opportunities to learn—before they enlist—about the reality of the military and the alternatives that exist for them.

Your generous donations help us fund these efforts to assist young people in making better choices, and to provide them with the opportunity to become nonviolent activists and peer educators.

The projects you support through the Muste Institute's Counter Recruitment Fund are located all over the United States, from rural Appalachia, Kansas and Hawai'i to the inner-city neighborhoods of Chicago, Los Angeles and New York.

Please make real change possible by contributing to the Muste Institute today. To designate your gift specifically for counter recruitment work, indicate "CR Fund" on the memo line of your check or in the designation area of the online donation form.



A poster placed in North Texas schools by Peaceful Vocations tells students: "You have a choice! Military enlistment is not your only option!"



## Adalys Fund: Protesting "Free Trade"

Members of the Sinti Techan Citizen Action Network Against Free Trade and Investment joined thousands of other Salvadorans in a protest march during U.S. President Barack Obama's March 2011 visit to El Salvador. Sinti Techan opposes U.S.-backed "free trade" treaties that devastate local economies, agriculture and the environment.

In February, the Muste Institute's Adalys Vázquez Solidarity Travel Fund granted \$1,000 to Sinti Techan to send delegates from a national environmental network to the Mesoamerican People's Forum in April in Minotitlán, Veracruz, Mexico. For a list of Adalys Fund grants made from October 2010 through February 2011, see the online edition of Muste Notes.

## NOVA Fund: Women's Empowerment in Mexico

Members of the Autonomous Regional Council of the Coastal Zone of Chiapas (CARZCH—Consejo Autónomo Regional de la Zona Costa de Chiapas) display their painted banner during a protest. An October 2010 grant from the Muste Institute's NOVA Fund to Centro de Derechos Humanos Digna Ochoa went to help CARZCH carry out its

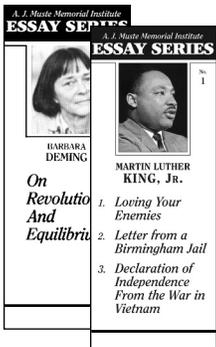
"Women as protagonists of change" project, including workshops, dialogue, education and analysis on gender, developed by women members of CARZCH. For a complete list of 2010 NOVA Fund grants, see the online edition of Muste Notes.



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**ESSAY SERIES ON NONVIOLENCE**



**#1: Martin Luther King, Jr.** – America's leading apostle of human dignity – *Loving Your Enemies; Letter from a Birmingham Jail; Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam.* Also in Spanish – see #13.

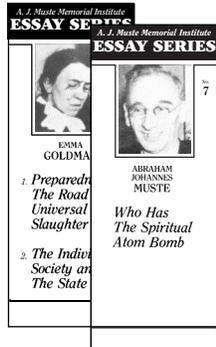
**#2: Barbara Deming** – the feminist connection to nonviolence – *On Revolution and Equilibrium*

**#3: Henry David Thoreau** – the original architect of resistance – *On the Duty of Civil Disobedience*

**#4: Jessie Wallace Hughan** – suffragist, peace activist, founder of the War Resisters League – *Pacifism and Invasion; On Duelling*

**#5: Emma Goldman** – fiery orator, anarchist, agitator for peace and liberation – *Preparedness: The Road to Universal Slaughter; The Individual, Society and the State*

**#6: Rosa Luxemburg** – courageous leader of Germany's democratic socialist movement – *Prison Letters*



**#7: A.J. Muste** – foremost 20th Century Pacifist theoretician and activist, minister, socialist – *Who Has the Spiritual Atom Bomb?*

**#8: On Wars of Liberation** – three essays on pacifist struggles, including analysis of Gandhi's position

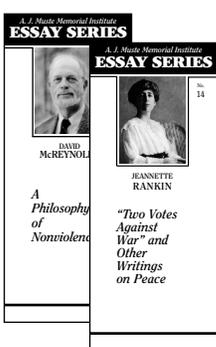
**#9: Aldous Huxley** – Twentieth Century visionary and prolific writer – *Science, Liberty and Peace*

**#10: Paul Goodman** – pacifist, anarchist, activist – *The Morality of Scientific Technology; The Psychology of Being Powerless*

**#11: Some Writings on War Tax Resistance** – thoughts, poems, tales from resisters, including Juanita Nelson, Allen Ginsberg and Pete Seeger

**#12: Sidney Lens** – peace and labor activist, socialist, occasional political candidate – six articles spanning three decades on the state of the U.S. labor movement

**#13: (Spanish) Martin Luther King, Jr.** – Spanish language



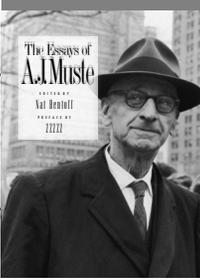
translation of *Loving Your Enemies, Letter from a Birmingham Jail and Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam.*

**#14: Jeannette Rankin** – first woman in Congress, suffragist, pacifist – *Two Votes Against War" and Other Writings on Peace"*

**#15: David McReynolds** – longtime activist with the War Resisters League, Socialist Party presidential candidate – *A Philosophy of Nonviolence*

**Peace Agitator: The Story of A.J. Muste**, by Nat Hentoff. A 250-page biography with many photos, profiling the 'grandfather' of the U.S. peace movement – minister, labor activist, pacifist and resister. Introduction by Larry Gara.

**Wear Your Peace Shirt.** Muste Institute t-shirts are black cotton with a four-color geometric design and the words: "There is no way to peace, peace is the way – A.J. Muste" Available in large and extra large. Shirts are made in the U.S.A.



**The Essays of A.J. Muste**  
 Edited by Nat Hentoff, preface by Jo Ann O. Robinson. Originally issued in 1967, this 500-page edition includes Muste's "Notes for an Autobiography," plus essays on pacifism, civil rights, trade unionism and foreign policy, written between 1905 and 1966.

**IF YOU USE THIS FORM, SHIPPING IS FREE—SEND IN YOUR ORDER TODAY!**

Essay Series	Quantity			
1 Martin Luther King, Jr.	_____	Pamphlets (total qty:)	_____	x \$2.00 each (\$1.40 each for 20 or more) \$ _____
2 Barbara Deming	_____	Sampler Pack	_____	x \$20.00 (one each of all 14 pamphlets) \$ _____
3 Henry David Thoreau	_____	<i>The Essays of A.J. Muste:</i>	_____	x \$20.00 * \$ _____
4 Jessie Wallace Hughan	_____	<i>Peace Agitator.</i>	_____	x \$5.00 * \$ _____
5 Emma Goldman	_____	T-Shirts: (L)_____ (XL)_____	_____	x \$15.00 \$ _____
6 Rosa Luxemburg	_____	<b>I am enclosing a tax-deductible contribution for the Muste Institute's work promoting active nonviolence and social justice:</b> \$ _____		
7 A. J. Muste	_____	* for bulk rates, contact the Muste Institute office		
8 <i>On Wars of Liberation</i>	_____	<b>SHIP TO</b> _____		
9 Aldous Huxley	_____	_____		
10 Paul Goodman	_____	_____		
11 War Tax Resistance	_____	_____		
12 Sidney Lens	_____	_____		
13 Martin Luther King, Jr. (Spanish)	_____	_____		
14 Jeannette Rankin	_____	_____		
15 David McReynolds	_____	_____		

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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