

March 29, 2010

Dear Friends,

In this issue of *Muste Notes*, we share some memories of friends who have left us, a letter from a young supporter and an update on the work of our grantees.

We are grateful for your outpouring of support in response to our December appeal. If you haven't yet contributed, please consider sending a check today or donating online to help sustain our work promoting nonviolent action for a better world.

In February, the *Muste Institute Board* began working with our tenant groups to establish a tenant advisory committee that will help sort through options as we prepare to move, and strengthen our sheltering program providing affordable office and meeting space for nonviolent social justice organizing.

In March the *Muste Institute* welcomed **Rebecca Libed** back to the Board of Directors. Rebecca, who served on the Board in 2003-2004, is director of development for the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. We are also excited to be joined by new Board members **Lynn Lewis**, executive director of *Picture the Homeless*, a grassroots homeless-led and directed organization and past *Muste Institute* grantee; and **Brian Drolet**, acting director of *Deep Dish TV*, an alternative forum for community-produced socially conscious media and longtime *Muste Institute* tenant group. You can read more about Rebecca, Lynn, Brian and all of our Board members on our website.

Thanks so much for your support.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Strole
Co-Director

Jane Guskin
Co-Director



VOL. 17, NUMBER 3

Spring 2010

Bil'in Protests Mark Five Years

The **Bil'in Popular Committee Against the Wall and the Settlements** has been mobilizing residents of the Palestinian West Bank village of Bil'in in weekly non-violent actions against the Wall and the Occupation since early 2005. The *Muste Institute* supported the Committee with a \$2,000 grant in April 2006.

The marchers have suffered constant repression by Israeli forces—including the killing of Bil'in activist Basem Ibrahim Abu Rahmah and the wounding of many other participants. In February 2010, preliminary infrastructure work to reroute the Wall finally began—two and a half years after the Israeli Supreme Court ruled that the barrier's path through Bil'in's land was illegal.

The persistence and creativity of Bil'in's weekly protests, in collaboration with Israeli and international activists, have established the village as a symbol of non-violent resistance and have inspired other villages to follow suit. This month Israel responded to this growing movement by declaring the areas surrounding the wall in Bil'in and another village, Nil'in, to be closed mil-



PHOTO BY ANNE PAO/ACTIVISTILLS.ORG

itary zones on Fridays. Residents are actively resisting the closing and continuing their weekly protests. For updates see <http://www.bilin-village.org/>.

On Friday, February 19, 2010, more than 1,000 people took part in a march celebrating the five-year anniversary of the weekly protests in Bil'in. During the mass demonstration, activists managed to dismantle a 30-foot section of Israel's separation barrier in an effort to implement a 2004 International Court of Justice ruling that declared the Wall illegal and ordered its removal. In this photo, marchers hold a sign reading: "We will uproot your wall despite the hatred of your bullets."

NOVA Fund Grants

September 2009: Members of Costa Rica's **National Front of Indigenous Peoples (FRENAPI)** mobilize for autonomy. FRENAPI was one of seven organizations that shared \$78,500 in grants from the *Muste Institute's* NOVA

Fund in 2009, supporting nonviolence efforts in Mexico, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Colombia. For a full list of these grants, see the online version of *Muste Notes*.



PHOTO BY FRENAPI

Peace is the Way

We received the following letter, along with a \$25 donation, in May of last year:

I am a 7th grade student at Marshall Middle School in Marshall, Michigan. I won a charity speech contest in my Language Art class and I can send a donation. I chose your organization because I have many non-violent beliefs. When I just recently opened your page on the internet, I found a quotation that I loved, and I saw on television a week before my speech, it is "There is no way to peace—peace is the way." I used that as a closing statement in my speech. I think if many more people followed this saying, the world would be much nicer. Thank you for helping many parts of the world, and I hope my donation can help.

Sincerely, Parker Cruz

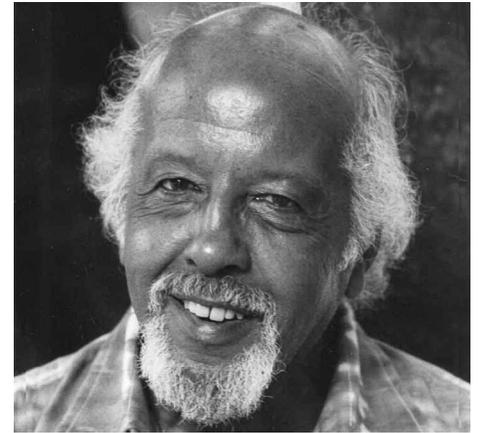
Remembering Papa Bill

by Matt Meyer

As a twenty-year-old draft registration resister in the early 1980s, the only thing keeping me from academic probation was a budding interest in African resistance movements. My life outside of undergraduate affairs was spent volunteering in the offices of the War Resisters League... and once Ralph DiGia found out what my interests were, his urgings were clear and consistent: you've *got* to meet my buddy Bill Sutherland! Living in Tanzania, Bill and Ralph knew one another from their days as World War Two conscientious objectors. It was their bicycle ride through Europe at the end of that war, however, that sent Bill on his life-long trajectory as a bridge between African liberation and global peace movements. Bill met some African students on that trip, and they helped convince him to travel to the continent to check out the

burgeoning anti-colonial struggles.

From 1953 onwards, Bill lived and traveled throughout Africa, working with the grassroots and with those who would become presidents. He and his family in Ghana worked closely with Kwame Nkrumah, and helped host Coretta Scott and Martin Luther King on their 1957 trip to that country's independence celebrations. He led the Sahara Protest Team of those putting their bodies in the way of French nuclear testing. He helped found Peace Brigades International, and moved to Dar es Salaam as Julius Nyerere and Kenneth Kaunda were experimenting with nonviolent tactics and philosophy. The freedom fighters from Southern Africa who fled to Tanzania and Zambia as their home struggles intensified found their way to Bill's front lawn, where he housed them with affection, and with healthy doses of American jazz. He joined the



Bill Sutherland, 1918-2010

international staff of the American Friends Service Committee, helping to lead the anti-apartheid movement and pushing that organization to use its clout to promote Bishop Desmond Tutu for the Nobel Peace prize.

After our meeting in the mid-1980s, Bill and I—despite the differences in our ages, ethnicities, and geographic locations—became friends, colleagues, and family members. Our *Guns and Gandhi in Africa: Pan African Insights on Nonviolence, Armed Struggle, and Liberation* (2000), which grew out of a Muste Institute-sponsored project, has led to ongoing research and activism. On January 2, 2010, at age 91, Bill “joined the ancestors”—but he leaves a rich legacy which lives on.

Lillian and George Willoughby

by Joanne Sheehan

George Willoughby, a co-founder of the Muste Institute's International Nonviolence Training Fund, died on January 5th, 2010, at the age of 95. His wife Lillian Willoughby died a year earlier—on January 15th, 2009—at the age of 93. Long time Quaker peace activists, Lillian and George both served on the Muste Institute's Advisory Committee.

George and Lillian met in the late 1930s and devoted their life together to promoting nonviolence. They were conscientious objectors during World War II, and helped find homes for Japanese-Americans who had been held in internment camps. In the early 50s George worked with American Friends Service Committee and later Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors. Both Lillian and George were involved in the Committee for Nonviolent Action and A Quaker Action Group. From 1971 to 1987 they were involved in the Philadelphia Life Center, an activist community that gave birth to Movement for a New Society. George also helped form Peace Brigades International. Later in life, Lillian joined Grannies for Peace.

Lillian and George visited India many times to strengthen ties with non-violent activists and training programs. They worked with many of the same



Lillian Willoughby heads to jail on October 20, 2004, at age 89 as George (bearded, with baseball cap) stands behind a banner that reads “Building a Culture of Peace.” Lillian and five other activists opted for a seven-day prison sentence instead of a \$250 fine after being convicted of obstructing the entrance to the federal building in Philadelphia on March 20, 2003, the day the United States invaded Iraq.

Gandhian activists who in late January of this year organized and attended the War Resisters' International Conference in Ahmedabad, India. The organizers named the conference auditorium the Willoughby-Sutherland Hall in honor of Lillian and George and Bill Sutherland, and displayed pictures and stories of their lives well lived. At the time of his death George was planning another visit to India for the dedication of a fund in Lillian's name.

Marilyn Meyer

Longtime New York City-based pacifist activist Marilyn Meyer passed away on March 22 at age 77. Marilyn was rarely in the spotlight, but her loving commitment sustained the nonviolent movement for peace and justice for decades. Marilyn's joy and warmth will be missed by all who knew her. In this photo from October 1982, Marilyn holds a sign reading “Blessed are the Peacemakers” at a demonstration in Washington, DC against the draft, part of the October Resistance Campaign.



PHOTO BY GRACE HEDEMAN HANE

Social Justice Grant: Gender Rights in Uganda

NANSANA WOMEN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Kampala, Uganda: \$1,000

Founded in 2004, Nansana Women Development Association (NWDA) is a community-based development organization that seeks to improve living conditions and alleviate human suffering in Wakiso district, which surrounds Uganda's capital, Kampala. This February 2010 grant, held over from the Social Justice Fund's

December cycle, goes for a campaign seeking protection and support for the property and gender rights of orphans and widows affected by HIV/AIDS.

The Social Justice Fund makes grants for grassroots activist projects in the US and around the world. The next deadline is April 19, 2010. Guidelines are at <http://ajmuste.org/guidelin.htm>. If supporting social justice activism is important to you, please donate now to help us expand this important grant-making program.



NANSANA WOMEN DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Nansana Women Development Association members in Uganda's Wakiso district demonstrate a locally made washing station, aimed at promoting handwashing after latrine use.

NYC Haitian Women Send Quake Relief

PHOTO BY CLAIRE PRESUME



Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees and MUDHA conduct a jewelry-making workshop for women in the quake-devastated town of Léogâne, providing a creative outlet for survivors.

When a massive earthquake hit Haiti on January 12, New York-based **Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees** jumped into action, spearheading a grassroots relief effort. The group joined with the Movement of Dominican Women of Haitian Descent (MUDHA) to get the first shipment of aid to Haiti within a few days of the quake, and together with other grassroots partners they have continued to send truckloads of medical supplies, food, mattresses,

tents, portable stoves and water from the Dominican Republic directly to those affected by the disaster. In April 2008 the Muste Institute granted \$2,000 to Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees for their work building opposition to racism and discrimination among Dominican and Haitian communities in New York City and beyond.

To find out more about their quake relief efforts, see <http://haitireliefnyc.wordpress.com/>.

Adalys Travel Grants, December 2009

PHOTO BY EMERATRIZ/FUNDACIÓN PUEBLO INDIO DEL ECUADOR



Above: Faith-based activists participate in a Kichwa indigenous ceremony during the Latin American Gathering of Education and Reflection "Pachamama, Peoples, Liberation and Sumak Kawsay" in memory of the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Mons. Leonidas Proaño, held January 27-31, 2010, in Imbabura, Ecuador. The Adalys Vázquez Solidarity Travel Fund made six grants in December to get grassroots activists to this gathering from Argentina, Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador and Peru.

At right: Community health promoters in Ciudad Quetzal, Guatemala, take part in a workshop breaking down internalized social myths around gender, class and violence. The



PHOTO BY CONSTANZA MIGUEL

workshop was facilitated by Argentine activist Constanza Miguel from Catholics for the Right to Decide as part of a three-week visit supported by the Adalys Fund.

December 2009 grants from the Adalys Fund also helped grassroots communicators from Mexico, Guatemala, and Ecuador get to gatherings in Honduras and Brazil; took a busload of low-income women community organizers from Sao Paulo to the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil; and brought young farmer-organizers from Argentina and Brazil to a campesino youth meeting in Quito. For the full list of 17 grants totaling \$13,629.39, see the online version of Muste Notes.

A.J. Muste Memorial Institute

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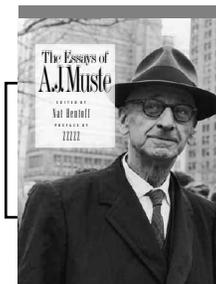
translation of *Loving Your Enemies*, *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* and *Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam*.

#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 new 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.

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