

July 12, 2010

## Dear Friends,

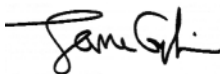

There is much to be excited about in the global movement for nonviolent social change. In the enclosed letter, you can see the results of your generous contributions to the Muste Institute.

Thanks to your support, we have exceeded our fundraising expectations. But the grassroots peace and justice movement keeps expanding, and our resources aren't enough to meet the needs. We received 100 applications for the June cycle of our Social Justice Fund!

People of all ages and backgrounds are out there organizing, mobilizing, and educating to build a better future. With your help, this movement can continue to make real gains.

Please give generously. And please help us spread the word about the Muste Institute by passing this newsletter on to your friends, colleagues, and family members, or posting it at your local library.

Sincerely,

   
 Jane Guskin Co-Director      Jeanne Strole Co-Director

P.S. We are deeply grateful to Melissa Jameson for her thoughtful, dedicated service to the Muste Institute since 2003. Melissa stepped down from the Board in June; she had been on leave since late 2008.



VOL. 17, NUMBER 4

Summer 2010

## Teaching Rebellion, from Oaxaca to Wisconsin

by Rachel Wallis

In October 2008, with support from a Muste Institute grant, CASA Collectives of Support, Solidarity and Action began a two-month organizing tour across 15 states using the book *Teaching Rebellion: Stories from the Grassroots Mobilization in Oaxaca*. The goal of the tour was to engage with U.S. audiences around the grassroots mobilization that took place in Oaxaca in 2006, to share the stories of how people across social groups joined together to fight against a corrupt and brutal government and in support of worker rights.

Our hope was that by sharing the voices and experiences of Oaxacans fighting for human rights in their own

communities, we could engage in a dialogue about cross-movement organizing, direct democracy, and human rights in the U.S. as well. In addition to sharing the testimonies from the book, the tour also featured an exhibit of photography documenting the movement.

The tour began on October 10 in Los Angeles with CASA board member Melissa Mundt and photographer and human rights activist Gustavo Vilchis. Gustavo and Melissa traveled through eight cities in California, Oregon and Washington, speaking to groups of activists, students and indigenous groups. Highlights included meeting with activists from the Frente Indígena de *continued on page 2*

## No Nukes! No War!

PHOTO BY KIMBER HEINZ



Peace activists gathered in New York City in early May 2010 to send a strong message for nuclear disarmament to the United Nations conference on the Nuclear Weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty. On May 2, thousands of people—including a 1,000-strong delegation from Japan—marched from Times Square to the U.N. Our friends from the War Resisters League (WRL) were out in force, calling for “No Nukes—Start with U.S.” At left, Tejaswini Madabhushi of WRL holds a sign that reads: No excuse for even one nuclear weapon,” while Elbina Mathews peers through the eye of a skull representing Russia. Demonstrators carried skulls named for all the countries that have nuclear weapons—including, obviously, the United States. “The march was phenomenal,” remarked Tejaswini, “with so many young and really old from various countries, voicing their dream of a nuclear free world.” On May 3, WRL members staged a “die-in” action at Grand Central



PHOTO BY NILN / BUD KOROTZER

Station; 22 people were arrested. A video of both actions can be viewed on the War Resisters League blog site at [warresisters.wordpress.com](http://warresisters.wordpress.com).

Above: Molly Klopot (right) and Phyllis Cunningham from the Granny Peace Brigade and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)- NY Metro let the world know they won't stay quiet about nuclear weapons—or any other injustice. The New York grannies had a strong presence at the May 2 march. WILPF NY Metro is a Muste Institute tenant group, and the grannies often meet and plan actions in the building.

## Teaching Rebellion

(continued from page 1)

Organizaciones Binacionales, a binational group of indigenous Mexicans, many of whom are originally from Oaxaca; and a presentation at the University of Washington Law School. Gustavo then flew to Minneapolis, where CASA board member Rachel Wallis took over interpretation and coordination. Gustavo and Rachel traveled through Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Ohio, speaking to university audiences, immigrant groups and community organizations about grassroots organizing in Oaxaca. Highlights included meetings in Madison, Wisconsin with members of the Mexican-American student group MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán); presentations with the parents of New York activist journalist Brad Will, who was murdered in 2006 while covering the Oaxaca rebellion; and a photography workshop with an immigrant women's domestic violence support group.

While the Midwest leg of the tour was wrapping up, an East Coast tour was beginning with Sylvia Hernandez, a former political prisoner and Oaxacan activist, and former CASA Coordinator Chris Thomas. The two traveled from Vermont to Virginia, speaking to community bookstores, immigrant

PHOTO BY MARTIN ALVARADO



From left to right: Gustavo Vilchis, Rachel Wallis, and Simón Sedillo are interviewed on WORT, a community radio station in Madison, Wisconsin. Simón's 2005 documentary film *El Enemigo Común* (*The Common Enemy*) documented paramilitary activity against indigenous communities in Oaxaca—see [elenemigocomun.net](http://elenemigocomun.net).

organizations, student groups and more. Highlights included a meeting with the Olneyville Neighborhood Association in Providence, Rhode Island (a Muste Institute grantee); and events with People United, an immigrant organizing project in Harrisburg, Virginia.

This tour was organized on a shoestring budget. We made use of the hospitality of our hosts, our friends and our families, and borrowed cars whenever possible to save on travel expenses.

PHOTO BY RICHARD STAHLER-SHOLK



CASA activists Gustavo Vilchis and Rachel Wallis present to a class at Eastern Michigan University.

Thanks to the support of the Muste Institute, we were able to devote at least half of the tour dates to community and grassroots organizations who couldn't afford to pay an honorarium or travel expenses. During tour events, we also raised more than \$900 to support the families of political prisoners in Oaxaca. We have continued to build on the relationships begun with the speaking tour, most recently mobilizing in response to the assassination of two human rights activists in rural Oaxaca in April 2010.

You can get more information about CASA's work at [www.casacollective.org](http://www.casacollective.org). Photos, videos and blog entries about the tour can be found at [teachingrebellion.wordpress.com](http://teachingrebellion.wordpress.com).

## Howard Zinn: 1922-2010

**"I do believe [...] change can occur but it will not happen 'one day' or in one cataclysmic moment. It will happen over time as people, little by little, take over the institutions of society—the economy, the universities, the neighborhoods—and run them democratically. [...] I don't reject the idea of revolution, but I reject the idea of armed struggle, or a military action to achieve it. The revolution must be democratic in means as well as in ends, and this requires building mass support for change by long, persistent struggle."**—Howard Zinn (interview by Paul Glavin and Chuck Morse published in *Perspectives on Anarchist Theory*, Spring 2003.)

Howard Zinn—activist, teacher, historian and longtime Muste Institute supporter—died on January 27, 2010 at age 87. Roslyn Zinn, his wife, died in May 2008. In this photo, Howard is arrested at a May 1971 protest in Boston against the Vietnam war. The image was used in *Howard Zinn: You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train*, a documentary by Deb Ellis and Denis Mueller which the Muste Institute supported with a grant in December 2002.



### A.J. Muste Memorial Institute

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## Social Justice Fund Grants, June 2010

The Social Justice Fund makes grants for grassroots activist projects in the U.S. and around the world. The next deadline is September 24, 2010. Guidelines are at [ajmuste.org/guidelin.htm](http://ajmuste.org/guidelin.htm). If supporting social justice activism is important to you, please donate now to help us expand this important grantmaking program.

### ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION COUNCIL (ATIC)

Lauderhill, FL: \$1,250

Formed in July 2008, ATIC addresses the reality that half of Florida's more than 100,000 incarcerated residents are jailed for nonviolent, victimless third degree felonies. Our grant goes for the Community Organizing and Awareness Project, building public support for reassessing nonviolent crimes, limiting mandatory sentencing and encouraging alternatives such as diversion programs.

### AUSTIN IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COALITION

Austin, TX: \$1,250

The Austin Immigrant Rights Coalition is a membership-based coalition of immigrants, allies and organizations promoting human rights,

dignity and social and economic justice for immigrants. The Coalition formed in the spring of 2006 as immigrants were mobilizing across the U.S. in response to repressive national legislation. This grant goes for the Human Rights Promoter Project, training immigrant leaders to organize in defense of their rights under the U.S. Constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and to educate others through the creation of human rights committees.

### CONNECTICUT NETWORK TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

Hartford, CT: \$1,000

Since 1986, this network has been mobilizing grassroots community-based activists to educate and organize the Connecticut public in opposition to capital punishment. This grant goes for the "Voices of Experience Tour," in which family members affected by violent crime speak out about their opposition to the death penalty in public events and through the media.

### MULTICULTURAL ALLIANCE FOR A SAFE ENVIRONMENT (MASE)

Albuquerque, NM: \$1,250

MASE is a coalition of community-based organizations from communities adversely impacted by uranium mining. In a region that produced almost half of the uranium used by the U.S. from 1948 to 1988, many former mine workers are still sick, and communities are devastated by contaminated air, water and soil. This grant goes for the Mount Taylor Sacred Sites Prayer Run, an action to unite and reinvigorate



Activists from Think Outside the Bomb march in the international nuclear non-proliferation demonstration on May 2 in New York City.

people who have been working to stop new uranium mining in the region, and let the mining companies know that these communities will not allow uranium mining to resume.

### THINK OUTSIDE THE BOMB

Albuquerque, NM: \$1,250

Think Outside the Bomb started in 2005 as a project of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation Youth Empowerment program, and became an autonomous youth collective in 2009. This grant goes for the Disarmament Summer project: a cross-cultural alliance of youth working in partnership with indigenous communities in New Mexico to build a grassroots, consensus-based, nonviolent direct action movement. Their goals: stop the expansion of the nuclear weapons industry and achieve health-care and environmental justice for communities directly affected by the nuclear industry.

## Adalys Travel Grants

PHOTO BY RAFAEL BURGA



March 8, 2010: Members of the World March of Women (Marcha Mundial de las Mujeres) from Peru's northern region celebrate women's day with a batukada drum procession through the streets of Lambayeque. The Adalys Vázquez Solidarity Travel Fund granted \$1,000 to send two representatives of this women's group to the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, held in April in Cochabamba, Bolivia. You can read about all the Adalys Fund grants made in February and April in the online version of Muste Notes.

## Counter Recruitment Grants, April 2010

The Muste Institute's Counter Recruitment Fund makes small grants for grassroots efforts to inform young people about the realities of military service, help them protect their privacy from recruiters and refer them to non-military education and employment options. Our next deadline for proposals is October 11, 2010. Guidelines are on our website at [www.ajmuste.org/counter-recruit.htm](http://www.ajmuste.org/counter-recruit.htm).

**Iraq Veterans Against the War** (National Office), New York, NY: \$1,500

for regional counter-recruitment networking in Chicago and Albuquerque; and "truth in recruiting" efforts, especially with Native American and low-income youth.

**High Rocks Educational Corporation**, Hillsboro, WV: \$750 for a vocational and leadership development project targeting 60 female and at-risk students.

**Northwest Suburban Peace & Education Project**, Chicago, IL: \$1,000 for an "alternatives to military enlistment" career fair.

# 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 available in Spanish – see #13.

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

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

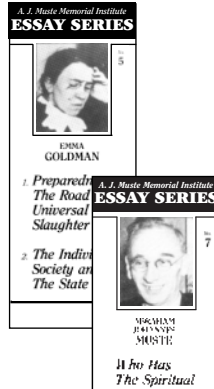
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**#5: Emma Goldman** – fiery orator, anarchist, agitator for peace and liberation – *Preparedness: The Road to Universal Slaughter*; *The Individual, Society and the State*

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

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

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

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

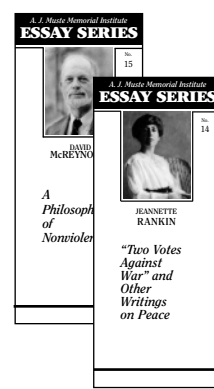
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**#11: Some Writings on War Tax Resistance** – thoughts, poems, tales from resisters, including Juanita Nelson, Allen Ginsberg and Pete Seeger

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**#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

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**#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*.

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

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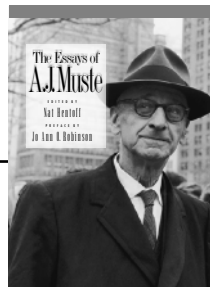
**#15: David McReynolds** – longtime activist with the War Resisters League, Socialist Party presidential candidate – *A Philosophy of Nonviolence*

qty: \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

qty: \_\_\_\_\_

**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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