

November 21, 2008

Dear Friends,

From its founding in 1974, the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute has been a sustaining force for the nonviolent movement for peace and social justice. If you've been involved over the past three decades in a group that has worked to promote disarmament, oppose nuclear power, stop U.S. military intervention abroad, end the death penalty, counter military recruitment, defend human rights, eliminate apartheid, or stop war, chances are that your work has benefited from Muste Institute funding, fiscal sponsorship or educational resources.

When I started as executive director in 1984, the Muste Institute had a small roster of sponsored organizations and a modest grantmaking program. Our efforts now reach across the globe, and our grassroots focus and activist board allow us to react quickly to urgent needs.

I'm proud of my long association with the Institute and the many wonderful and committed people like you who have sustained our work with your contributions. I've had the privilege to meet and talk with many of you, in writing or in person. It has been a great "perk" of my job here to respond to your questions, listen to your advice, and share stories and accomplishments. I'll miss these interactions as I leave my position here to pursue an opportunity to work with socially responsible invest-

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Transitions at the Muste Institute

By Peter Muste, Board Chair

After 24 years of dedicated service, Executive Director Murray Rosenblith is moving on to a new job as a director of the New Alternatives Fund, a Long Island-based mutual fund investing in alternative energy and conservation.

It was Murray who reached out to me and to my family and got us involved in the Institute's work supporting peace and justice activism. I am sure my grandfather would be proud of how this work, inspired by his legacy, has blossomed under Murray's tenure.

The board has named Program Director Jane Guskin and Associate Director Jeanne Strole as interim co-directors of the Muste Institute. Jane

has helped spearhead the Institute's program expansion over her nearly 16 years working here, and Jeanne has been responsible for much of the day-to-day management of the Institute's development, program and administrative work since joining the staff more than five years ago. They are extremely dedicated to the Institute's mission, and the board is confident that our programs for peace and social justice will flourish under their capable management. I will also be playing an active role through this transition period, and I look forward to being in touch with all of you who make the Institute's work possible through your

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Activists Unite Against Militarization



PHOTOS BY COMPPA

Some 800 activists from throughout the Americas met in early October in La Esperanza, Honduras for the Second Hemispheric Gathering Against Militarization. Delegates from 175 organizations and 27 countries took part in the four-day event, which ended on Oct. 6 with a march and demonstration in front of the U.S. military base in Palmerola. "We reaffirm our commitment to struggle for a demilitarized, disarmed world and continent, free of war, misery and violence," states the gathering's final declaration. The Muste Institute's NOVA Travel Fund provided nearly \$20,000 to help activists from 19 different organizations get to the meeting from Haiti, Colombia, Bolivia, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile, Peru, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Nicaragua and Guatemala; for details, see the online version of Muste Notes. Above left: Community radio activists from Guatemala and Honduras participate in a media workshop where they plan their coverage of the gathering. Above right: Hundreds of activists kick off the gathering on Oct. 3 with a march through La Esperanza to protest militarization.

Dear Friends

(continued from page 1)

ment in alternative energy, conservation and sustainable development.

I want to commend and salute all the members of the Board of Directors with whom I've had the privilege to work. I deeply value my associations with this remarkable group of activists. I'm particularly grateful to Board chair Peter Muste for his constancy, patience and counsel over the past few years. My appreciation and affection also go to my co-workers at the Muste Institute, Jane Guskin and Jeanne Strole, who are now serving as interim co-directors, and Building Superintendent Salvador Suazo. Jane and Jeanne's intelligence, hard work, perseverance and good humor here have been largely responsible for the great progress and dynamic new programs that we've developed.

As the Muste Institute faces great challenges, the commitment that Peter, Jeanne, Jane and our board members share for our work and vision will be an invaluable asset.

But the true face of the Muste Institute is not the dedicated staff, who carry out the day-to-day work, or the board, which guides funding and other important decisions, or even the legacy of A.J. Muste, which inspires us as activists. The face of the Muste Institute is a Burmese refugee woman empowering herself and her peers in a nonviolence training. It's a farmworker in Florida successfully confronting corporations to demand fair wages. It's a young person in

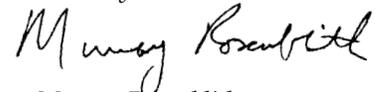
Chicago saying no to military recruiters. It's a Palestinian villager marching peacefully against Israel's apartheid wall; and it's grassroots activists all around the world engaged in nonviolent action and popular education for a better world.

The face of the Muste Institute is also your face: the supporter who makes all this work possible through your contributions. It is true solidarity, not just charity: your support demonstrates your commitment to sharing resources in a common mission for social justice. The role of the Muste Institute is to facilitate that solidarity, to ensure that your donations reach these wonderful grassroots projects, and to show you the accomplishments made possible by your contributions, as an inspiration to all of us who seek, as Martin Luther King, Jr. put it, not merely the absence

of violence, but the presence of justice.

I will always treasure the wonderful contacts I've shared with so many of you and the steadfast support for our work that you've provided. While I'm leaving the staff, I'll be continuing and increasing my commitment to sustain the Muste Institute's important programs by making the largest contribution I can afford. I hope you'll join me in increasing your support. Every donation, no matter the size, moves us all a step closer to the realization of A.J. Muste's vision of a just and nonviolent world.

Sincerely,



Murray Rosenblith



Mapuche indigenous activist Moira Millán speaks to a crowd of thousands at a march for indigenous rights on Oct. 12, the closing day of the Americas Social Forum in Guatemala. A grant from the Muste Institute's NOVA Travel Fund allowed Millán to travel more than 4,000 miles from her home in Argentina's southern Patagonia region to participate in the Hemispheric Gathering Against Militarization in Honduras, the Social Forum in Guatemala and a meeting with indigenous Kuna activists in Panama.

PHOTO BY SANTIAGO HOERTH

Counter Recruitment Grants, October 2008

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 February 9, 2009. Guidelines are on our website at www.ajmuste.org/counter-recruit.htm.

Appalachian Peace and Justice Network, Athens, OH: \$1,500 for tabling and distribution in rural Appalachian Ohio high schools as part of the Nonviolent Service Options Campaign.

Coalition Against Militarism in Our Schools (CAMS), South Pasadena, CA: \$1,000 for Project Great Futures, providing information in Southern California high schools, colleges and career centers on alternative financing for education, green job opportunities and the realities of military service.

New York Collective of Radical Educators (NYCoRE), Long Island City, NY: \$1,000 for coalition-building and workshops in New York City based on the curricular resource guide "Camouflaged: Investigating How the U.S. Military Affects You and Your Community."

Ohio Conference of Mennonite Churches USA, Kidron, OH: \$1,000 to distribute educational materials about militarism and military service in high schools in Central Ohio, and to meet with guidance counselors to inform them of alternatives to military service for their students.

Resource Center for Nonviolence, Santa Cruz, CA: \$1,500 for the Truth in Recruiting Network, educating high school students in the Watsonville area and other areas of rural Santa Cruz County about the realities of military service and non-military alternatives.

A.J. Muste Memorial Institute

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New Grants, October 2008

ASOCIACIÓN DE EX INTERNOS PENITENCIARIOS DE EL SALVADOR

San Salvador, El Salvador: \$1,000

The Association of Former Prisoners of El Salvador has been working for five years to promote human rights and protest prison conditions. This grant goes for the "Stories of Life" project, involving prisoners and former prisoners in circles of reflection where they can discuss their rights and duties and put forward proposals for a more humane and effective system.

ASOCIACIÓN DE MUJERES PARA LA INTEGRACIÓN DE LA FAMILIA EN NICARAGUA (AMIFANIC)

Ciudad Sandino, Nicaragua: \$1,000

The Association of Women for the Integration of the Family in Nicaragua (AMIFANIC) began working four years ago to address labor conditions in Nicaragua's assembly-for-export factories (maquiladoras). This grant goes for a meeting in Ciudad Sandino to inform women workers about their rights and support their efforts to organize for better conditions.

CASA—COLECTIVOS DE APOYO, SOLIDARIDAD Y ACCION

San Francisco, California: \$1,000

CASA—Collectives of Support, Solidarity and Action, founded in 2001, works to expand awareness of social justice struggles in the southern Mexican states of Chiapas and Oaxaca. This grant goes for an educational tour in the US in conjunction with the release of *Teaching Rebellion: Stories from the Grassroots Mobilization in Oaxaca*, a book of photos and testimonials of Oaxacan activism.

NATIONAL DEATH ROW ASSISTANCE NETWORK

Peaks Island, Maine: \$1,000

The National Death Row Assistance Network of CURE (Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants) was founded in 2000 to educate and empower capital defendants and their families for self-advocacy. This grant goes for distribution of legal resources and trainings for family members and allies.

NODUTDOL FOR KOREAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Woodside, New York: \$1,000

Nodutdol was founded in 1999 to create a progressive space in New York City promoting the self-determination and unity of the Korean people. This



PHOTO BY JONAH HOUSE

October 15, 2008: Activists march to the Salina Regional Airport in Kansas to protest a U.S. Air Force bombing and strafing competition taking place there. The action was part of a three-day conference titled "The Heartland Speaks," organized by Salina People for Peace.

grant goes for a youth-led film project and screening program building awareness among Asian-American youth around issues of war and militarism.

SALINA PEOPLE FOR PEACE

Salina, Kansas: \$1,000

Salina People for Peace works to educate the public about peace and justice issues, provide a forum and support for people working on these issues, and promote peaceful resolutions to conflict. This grant went for outreach and educational efforts in connection with *The Heartland Speaks*, a three-day conference held in Salina in October.

Through its general grantmaking program, the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute has made hundreds of small grants over the past 30 years to groups engaged in nonviolent education and action for social justice. Unfortunately, because of financial concerns we have had to temporarily suspend this grantmaking program. If supporting social justice activism is important to you, please **donate now** to help us restore this program.

Transitions

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generous support.

The Muste Institute is also facing a transition with our building at 339 Lafayette Street in Manhattan. An engineer's report has uncovered serious structural problems which make even a gut renovation impractical. The Board is exploring options including the possibility that a group of concerned activists could create a new peace building on the site. However things work out, we expect to end up with an accessible space where we can continue and expand our program work.

These are challenging, uncertain economic times. I hope you recognize that the Muste Institute's programs, which address so many of the root causes of the problems we're facing, are more important than ever. The changes that will result from the recent elections give us a unique opportunity to participate in the national dialogue on social justice, militarism and the United States' role in the world. We cannot afford to let this opportunity pass by.

I encourage you to step up your support for the Muste Institute, and to tell others about our work promoting active nonviolence for social justice.

Thank you for your support.

—Peter Muste

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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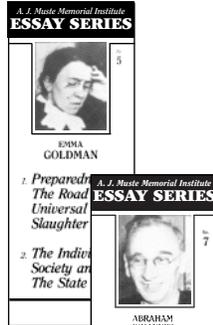
#2: Barbara Deming – the feminist connection to nonviolence – *On Revolution and Equilibrium*
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#3: Henry David Thoreau – the original architect of resistance – *On the Duty of Civil Disobedience*
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#4: 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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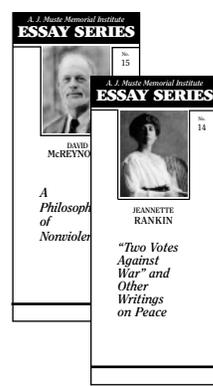
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#9: Aldous Huxley – Twentieth Century visionary and prolific writer – *Science, Liberty and Peace*
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#10: Paul Goodman – pacifist, anarchist, activist – *The Morality of Scientific Technology; The 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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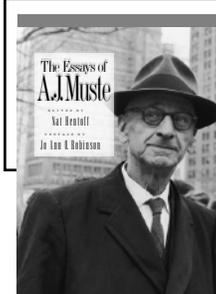
#13: (Spanish) Martin Luther King, Jr. – Spanish language translation of *Loving Your Enemies, Letter from a Birmingham Jail and Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam*.
 qty: _____

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

#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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