

Dear Friends,

The New Year is bringing change to the Muste Institute.

We're sad to bid goodbye to two members of the Muste Institute's Board of Directors. Lynn Lewis and John Zirinsky both stepped down in November to focus on other priorities. John, our longtime treasurer, has been a valuable resource as we review options for our building. Lynn, one of our newest board members, brought a fresh perspective and key insights to our efforts to develop best practices and policies for the Institute. We thank both of them for their time, energy and dedicated service to the Muste Institute, and wish them well.

We are also sorry to lose staff member Rose Regina Lawrence, assistant to the co-directors, who left the Muste Institute in November. We will miss her creative and thoughtful presence in the office, and wish her much luck with her new endeavors.

We are grateful for your enthusiastic response to the November letter from Marc Rodrigues of Student/Farmworker Alliance, which emphasized the important role the Muste Institute plays in sustaining nonviolent action and grassroots organizing for social justice. If you haven't yet donated, please make a generous contribution to the Muste Institute today, so we can face whatever challenges 2011 may bring.

Sincerely,


Jane Guskin
Co-Director


Jeanne Strole
Co-Director

Peace Pentagon: New Opportunities

by Peter Muste, Board Chair

Last year we wrote to let you know that we were moving toward a possible sale of our building at 339 Lafayette Street and the purchase of a new and accessible home for the Institute and our movement tenant organizations.

Since then, development partnership opportunities have emerged that could allow us to remain in our present location in a renovated or new structure, while enhancing the financial stability of the organization. While we explore these possibilities, we are continuing to

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VOL. 18, NUMBER 2

Winter 2011

Thousands Protest for Peace at SOA Watch Vigil

By Zachary D'Amico

The Muste Institute acts as fiscal sponsor for School of the Americas Watch, channeling tax-deductible contributions to SOA Watch's educational work and organizing for human rights and social justice. This article was written for Muste Notes by Zachary D'Amico, an SOA Watch activist and a student at Mount Mercy University in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Photos of this year's SOA Watch vigil are by Linda Panetta.

Thousands of people converged at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia, on November 20-21, 2010 to demand the closing of the School of the Americas, where the Department of Defense trains Latin American military personnel.

Thousands of Latin Americans—from union leaders to archbishops—have been made victims by the school's graduates. It has a solid reputation for admitting known human rights abusers, and a better reputation for training future ones. It has been dubbed the School of the Assassins.

The twentieth annual School of the



PHOTOS BY LINDA PANETTA, OPTICALREALITIES.ORG

Americas Watch vigil culminated on Sunday November 21, when thousands of people staged a silent, non-violent walk of remembrance around the street that leads to the gates of the U.S. Army base. In each hand was a simple cross, upon which was scrawled the name of a victim—from Archbishop Oscar Romero to Child, three years old—who had been abducted, tortured, raped, and/or murdered by the hands of those trained at the School of the Americas.

Those crosses carried the grief of a lifetime of oppression and pain. The thousands of wooden white crosses were raised in unison to the Georgia sky, while from a loudspeaker was read the name and age of each victim, to which the crowd cried out "Presente!"

Certain ones would grab my attention: brother and sister, nine and ten years old; mother of two small sons; Honduran coup resistance leaders assassinated since president Pepe Lobo

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SOA Watch Vigil *(continued from page 1)*

took office; Joaquin Lopez, 71 years old; Oscar Ramirez, 17 years old; child of one and a half years old.

"When they read the name of someone who was the same age as my grandson, it just pierced my heart," said Carol Tyx, associate professor of English at Mount Mercy University. "Nine months old and dead."

A helicopter belonging either to the U.S. military or the Columbus, Georgia police department flew overhead incessantly, making round after round, its blades chopping loudly through the humid air.

A large banner of Rufina Amaya would bend with each gust of wind. In 1981 she watched helplessly as members of the Salvadoran army, trained at the School of the Americas, slaughtered her entire village, murdering her children and decapitating her husband.



The thousands of people moved around the street median, led by figures clothed in black with faces painted white, carrying caskets of symbolic death. Collectively, they walked as one giant mass—the greatest funeral procession I've ever seen—but slowly enough to read the sorrow and hope on each face.

The victims' names competed with another loudspeaker, blaring out from

Fort Benning, warning everyone they would face certain arrest if they dare cross onto the base. The street was lined with what seemed to be the whole of the Columbus police force.

The procession made its way to the Fort Benning entrance gate, behind which, hidden by towering pine trees, lay the School of the Americas. Behind which also stood a line of armed guards, appearing stiff and determined. The division between us and them was measured by a tall chain link fence topped with angled barbed wire. Each member of the procession gently placed their cross in the fence.

Two young men climbed that fence in a deliberate act of civil disobedience. They climbed slowly, carefully using their shoes to subdue the barbed wire. The first walked slowly to the guards with his hands ready for cuffs. The second lay motionless in the grass, allowing the guards to approach and arrest him. The two activists were escorted into waiting vehicles amid cheers and chants of "Close the SOA!"

The fence eventually became so inundated with crosses that one could not see through it clearly. There were thousands of crosses representing thousands of deaths. Some crosses would fall off the fence due to sheer weight and overcrowdedness. Those who had already placed their cross in the fence would pick up the fallen ones and slowly place them back with the other thousands.

PRODUCCIONES Y MIGRACIONES FEMINISTAS, A.C.

Adalys Fund Grants

At right, participants in the Eighth Latin American and Caribbean Lesbian Feminist Gathering march in Guatemala City in October. One of seven grants made in August by the Muste Institute's Adalys Vázquez Solidarity Travel Fund helped an activist from *Movimiento de Acción Lésbica Feminista* (Lesbian Feminist Action Movement) of Aguascalientes, Mexico, travel to the gathering. For a full list of August grants, see the online version of *Muste Notes*.



Peace Pentagon *(continued from page 1)*

seek major gifts or loans to cover the cost of repairing or rebuilding on our site.

We owe it to you, our supporters—and to all the social justice activists we support through our grant, sponsorship and sheltering programs—to review these options thoroughly so we can make the best possible decision. As part of this process, we have commissioned architectural bid drawings that will start where last year's engineering investigation left off, and lead us to a more accurate estimate of the cost of repairs. Several key supporters have chipped in to pay for this new project, but more help is needed.

If you have a particular interest in the future of our sheltering mission, and you have resources to contribute, we encourage you to get in touch. We are

looking for people with skills and dedication to volunteer their time, as well as donations to help us expand our options for the building.

For decades the Peace Pentagon has been a home base for historic organizing efforts, an oasis of nonviolent resistance in the heart of Manhattan. To contribute to this legacy, please make your gift payable to the Muste Institute and indicate "sheltering" on the memo line of your check or on the online donation form. These donations will be earmarked specifically toward providing affordable and functional office and meeting space for the A.J. Muste Memorial Institute and our movement tenants.

Please give now. Thank you for your continued support.

A.J. Muste Memorial Institute

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“The Good Soldier” Wins an Emmy

The Good Soldier, a feature-length documentary about five U.S. veterans who fought in World War II, Vietnam and the Middle East, won an award for “outstanding historical programming—long form” at the 31st News and Documentary Emmy Awards in September 2010. Veterans featured in the documentary joined filmmakers Lexy Lovell and Michael Uys in accepting the prestigious award.

In this moving documentary, U.S. combat veterans share their journeys through war, from killing to questioning, from protest to healing. The Muste Institute supported “The Good



Staff Sergeant Will Williams received a Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars for his combat in Vietnam. In “The Good Soldier,” he describes his struggles with alcohol, poverty and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Now a peace activist in Madison, Wisconsin, he speaks at rallies and talks to public school youth about the realities of war and alternatives to military service.

Soldier” with a December 2006 grant of \$2,000 to Out of the Blue Productions. The film was released theatrically in

November 2009 and is available on DVD. For information and previews: www.thegoodsoldier.com.

Social Justice Fund Grants, December 2010

COALICIÓN DE DERECHOS HUMANOS

Tucson, AZ: \$1,000

Coalición de Derechos Humanos (Human Rights Coalition) is a grassroots organization founded in 1993 to oppose the militarization of communities along the southern U.S. border and promote respect for human rights. This grant goes for the Coalition’s Yo Soy Testigo (I am a Witness) Campaign, a collaborative effort to encourage community participation in documenting and educating about law enforcement abuses, particularly local authorities’ collaboration with U.S. Border Patrol.

MINNESOTA BREAK THE BONDS: DIVEST FOR JUSTICE IN PALESTINE!

Minneapolis, MN: \$1,000

Minnesota Break the Bonds is made up of Palestinians, Jews, Christians, Muslims, students, professionals, parents, community members and allies,

working together to educate and mobilize Minnesota residents to press Israel to comply with international law and end its occupation of Palestine. This grant goes for a campaign supporting the Palestinian civil society call for boycott, divestment and sanctions by building public pressure on the state of Minnesota to divest from Israel bonds.

NATIONAL G.I. COFFEEHOUSE SUPPORT NETWORK

New York, NY: \$1,500

The National G.I. Coffeehouse Support Network works to build up existing G.I. coffeehouses as organizing hubs for active duty soldiers and recent veterans challenging militarism and injustice, and to support the formation of new coffeehouse initiatives. This grant goes for an internship program to support the core functioning and long-term sustainability of the network’s existing coffeehouses: Under the Hood Café, near Fort Hood, Texas; Coffee Strong, near Fort Lewis, Washington; and Norfolk OffBase, located in Norfolk, Virginia near 14 major military installations.

REFLECT & STRENGTHEN

Dorchester MA: \$1,500

Reflect and Strengthen was started in 2001 by eight young women who were survivors of violence, sexual abuse, incarcerated family, absent fathers, and loss of loved ones to preventable diseases. This grassroots collective now has a core membership of up to 36 working-class women ages 14-30 who take a holistic approach to organizing in

order to create personal and social transformation. Our grant goes for Da Force—the Massachusetts Juvenile Justice Task Force on Racial Disparities—a group of community members working since 2007 to eliminate unfair treatment of youth of color and to expand the use of alternatives to detention.

ST. LOUIS INTER-FAITH COMMITTEE ON LATIN AMERICA

St. Louis, MO: \$1,000

This committee began in 1977 as the Greater St. Louis Latin America Solidarity Committee, focusing on disappearances and human rights cases in Chile and Argentina. As liberation struggles and US intervention intensified in Central America, ecumenical groups deepened their involvement, forming the St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America in 1981. This grant goes for the Sweatfree Community project, educating and mobilizing St. Louis area residents to press local municipalities to apply fair labor standards to their purchasing policies.



Reflect & Strengthen members perform at My Sister’s Keeper, the group’s annual awards ceremony and fundraiser.

The Muste Institute’s Social Justice Fund makes grants for grassroots activist projects in the U.S. and around the world.

If supporting nonviolent action for social justice is important to you, please **DONATE NOW** to help us expand this important program. Thank you!

A.J. Muste Memorial Institute
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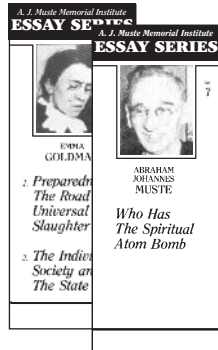
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#3: Henry David Thoreau – the original architect of resistance – *On the Duty of Civil Disobedience*

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

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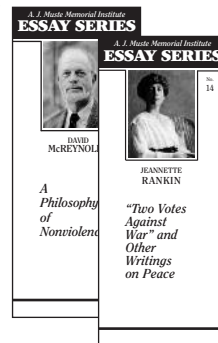
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#12: Sidney Lens – peace and labor activist, socialist, occasional political candidate – six articles spanning three decades on the state of the U.S. labor movement

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



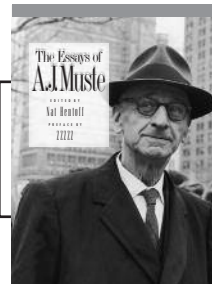
translation of *Loving Your Enemies, Letter from a Birmingham Jail and Declaration of Independence from the War in Vietnam.*

#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.

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