



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>The Irish Peace Miracle</i>	1
<i>Iran War Prevented?</i>	1
<i>A Tale of Lost Illusions</i>	2
<i>Success Stories</i>	3
<i>March to May Accomplishments</i>	3 - 4
<i>Advisory & Executive Committee</i>	4

Special points of interest:

- On May 8th, for the first time, more than half of the members of Iraq's parliament rejected the continuing U.S. occupation. The U.S. media ignored the story.
- The Military Commissions Act, passed in fall of 2006, gives the president the unprecedented power to define torture and imprison people without just cause.
- In another major step toward a Constitutional Dictatorship, on May 9th Homeland Security Presidential Directive 20 and National Security Presidential Directive 51 were signed. President Bush is now able to take over all branches of government by simply announcing an emergency.
- Source articles for our "Special points of interest" are available at www.teachpeace.com.

THE IRISH PEACE MIRACLE

The power of truth and justice wins again!

A meeting on March 26th signaled permanent peace after 400 years of conflict in Ireland. Gerry Adams (the Irish nationalist leader of Sinn Fein) and the Reverend Ian Paisley (the Democratic Unionist Party leader) showed the world that the impossible can become real when diplomacy is pursued.



To understand the magnitude of this event, imagine President George W. Bush and Osama bin Laden sitting down at the same table to announce their agreement to stop fighting. Like Bush and bin Laden, Adams and Paisley represent the extremes of their respective organizations. Adams' party is the political arm of the Catholic Irish Republican Army. The Irish Republican Army only recently abandoned terrorist attacks against Protestants and the British government. Paisley is the descendant of unionists who supported a "Protestant parliament for a Protestant people" for most of the 20th century.

Peace education efforts from peacemakers like Mairead Corrigan McGuire, recipient of the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize for her heroic work in Northern Ireland, played a key role in ending the sectarian killing.

Ireland is experiencing a peace miracle. History continually demonstrates that when people step forward to oppose violence, ultimately the power of truth and justice prevails. Martin Luther King, Jr. communicated why we must teach peace when he observed: *"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction... The chain reaction of evil-hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation."*

IRAN WAR PREVENTED?

We have previously reported that the Bush administration is planning to start a war with Iran and senior members of the US military are opposing this plan. According to reporter Gareth Porter, Admiral William Fallon has vowed that there would be no war against Iran as long as he is chief of Central Command (CENTCOM). Admiral Fallon's refusal in February to support a further naval buildup in the Gulf supports his position that an attack on Iran will decrease America's national security. A source who met privately with Fallon around the time of his confirmation hearing quoted Fallon as saying that an attack on Iran "will not happen on my watch." Peace is possible when people like Admiral Fallon put their career on the line to do what is right.

Special points of interest:

- On May 11th, a House panel entered harsh criticisms of war privatization into the congressional record for the first time. Jeremy Scahill's (author of *Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army*) testimony was exceptionally powerful.
- After a new czar position was turned down by several people, the White House announced on May 15th that Lt. Gen. Douglas Lute accepted the position to oversee the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He has authority to issue directions to the Pentagon, the State Department and other agencies.
- On May 19th, former President Jimmy Carter, in a statement unprecedented for the 39th president, blasted the Bush administration. He said: "I think as far as the adverse impact on the nations around the world, this administration has been the worst in history."
- On May 24th, 216 House Democrats voted to send President Bush a blank check to continue a war they promised to end.
- On June 2nd and 3rd, Teach Peace members walked with a veteran around the Sacramento State capitol. Each lap helped our citizenry remember the soldiers and civilians who have died in Iraq and Afghanistan.

A TALE OF LOST ILLUSIONS

When I was growing up my image of our leaders was shaped by men like Washington and Lincoln. Their integrity and intelligence played a critical role in founding our nation and in preserving it. Many years later I gradually learned that they are not typical and that I could not depend upon our leaders to be truthful or to be wise. Yet our democracy depends on having a citizenry that is truthfully informed and wisely led.

I will illustrate by one example that our leaders lie and by another that they are not necessarily wise. The first goes back to the Vietnam War. Though there are more recent illustrations, this one has had ample time to be verified. Moreover it may help us understand our involvement in Iraq.

On August 6, 1964, Secretary of Defense McNamara asserted before a Senate committee, "Our navy played absolutely no part in, was not associated with, was not aware of, any South Vietnamese actions, if there were any I say this flatly. This is a fact." This was a complete falsehood, for our navy had been supporting South Vietnamese harassment of North Vietnam coastal facilities. However, the lie accomplished its purpose, getting the Tonkin Gulf resolution passed that permitted a huge expansion of our involvement in Vietnam. You will find a fuller treatment of this episode in Norman Solomon's *War Made Easy*, pages 103 to 108.

My second example is more recent, but confirming it is quite easy. Just before we invaded Iraq in 2003 Vice President Cheney said, "My belief is we will, in fact, be greeted as liberators." On May 30, 2005 he claimed, "They're in the last throes, if you will, of the insurgency." If he was truthfully expressing his views, then I have to conclude that he has little understanding of Iraq. As a result it is hard for me to treat anything he says about our occupation of that country seriously. In this matter, he has risen above his level of competence.

Both examples remind us that to preserve a functioning democracy, we citizens have to make every effort to get behind the façade put up by our leaders. It is not easy to do that. At the minimum it means getting our information from a variety of sources and reading a few of the many books written by authors who have either served behind the scenes or managed to find out by hard work what "really happened." Below are a few such references. There are important hard facts in these books, facts that the standard media may fail to cover. One goal of Teach Peace is to help make these facts accessible to a broad public, free of political bias.

Richard A. Clarke, *Against All Enemies*, 2004

David Dionisi, *American Hiroshima*, 2005

Daniel Ellsberg, *Secrets*, 2003

Daniel C. Hallin, *The Uncensored War; The Media and the Vietnam War*, 1989

Robert W. McChesney, *Rich Media Poor Democracy*, 1999

Mary Young, *Iraq and the Lessons of Vietnam*, 2007

By Sherman Stein

Sherman Stein is a founding member of the Teach Peace Foundation. He is a regular contributor of information to help people acquire sufficient background for their role as citizens of a democracy.

Teach Peace Meetings:

- See the Teach Peace site for a full listing of June presentations and events. Free movies showing at 7 p.m. in the Davis Library Blanchard Room at 314 E 14th Street include:
 - > *The War Tapes* on 6/6.
 - > *Truth & Lies of 9/11* on 6/21.
- Monthly conference calls are on the first Saturday of every month from 1 - 3 p.m (PST). To participate on July 7th, call 218-486-1300 and enter the bridge code 720663.
- For additional details and to learn about more events, go to the Meetings & Events section at www.teachpeace.com.

SPECIAL EVENT!



June 8, 2007 - A 7-9 p.m. presentation by Dr. Bob Bowman and Dave Dionisi at the Marriott Courtyard.

The address is 4422 Y Street in Sacramento. The presentation is in the Main Ballroom.

Help support Teach Peace and buy a \$20 ticket or \$15 when purchased online at www.teachpeace.com.

SUCCESS STORIES

Feedback from students, teachers, and program participants reinforces our belief that the Teach Peace programs are making a difference.

Below are two samples of the feedback we are receiving. To see the long list of Teach Peace endorsements, go to <http://www.teachpeace.com/endorsements.htm>.

1. A thank you card following a presentation delivered by Mary Wind.

Dear Mary, Your presentation was full of truths and observations that definitely left an impression on me. Mainly it reminded me that peace isn't just something my hippy parents once protested for, nor a false hope or euphemism. Peace is a way of life that will produce favorable (peaceful) results. I look forward to getting more involved. Thanks again, Emily

2. A letter about classes delivered by Marilyn Perry, Linda Copeland and Mary Anne Kirsch.

Dear Marilyn, I want to thank you so much for the wonderful lesson you delivered to my students. They talk about being "peaceful" all the time. We have added the words "Peaceful Class" on the whiteboard along with our mottos "Mastery" and "Accuracy." Again, thank you so very much and please pass on our gratitude to the other ladies that also came to Southport. Sincerely, Kendra (from Southport Elementary in West Sacramento)



Kendra Reynolds, Rhonda Martin, Sharon Kennedy, and Marty Elliott from Southport Elementary with the leadership of Principal Diane Smith are working with Teach Peace to help students learn about alternatives to violence.

Please call 530-554-7061 if you would like to become a Teach Peace instructor.

MARCH TO MAY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

From March to May over 30 "in person" educational presentations were delivered to thousands of people. In addition, Teach Peace articles were published around the world and together with education delivered via the radio and the Internet, we provided peace education to over one million people.

- March 1 - Teach Peace was presented in an hour long discussion on the Danielle Fodor radio show.
- March 2 - A 7 p.m. presentation on how to prevent war with Iran was delivered at the main library in Winters, CA.
- March 3 - The monthly Teach Peace 1 p.m. meeting was followed with a 7 p.m. 90 minute presentation in Curtis Park, CA.
- March 4 - Teach Peace promoted a presentation by David Smith-Ferri at the Unitarian Church in Davis, CA.
- March 10 - A 10 a.m. presentation to the Placer County Democratic Club in Rocklin.
- March 12 - A discussion at St. James in Davis, CA on Teach Peace.
- March 13 - A 7 p.m. presentation to the Veterans for Peace in Auburn, CA. The movie *Fog of War* was shown in Davis, CA.
- March 14 - A 11:30 a.m. meeting with Resource Center for Nonviolence members in Santa Cruz.
- March 19 - A 7 p.m. presentation on *How To Prevent War With Iran* at the Woodland library.
- March 20 - A 11 a.m. kindergarten *Teach Peace* class at the Thomas Jefferson school.

Save the October 21, 2007 date and 6-9:00 p.m. for an Evening of Peace dinner.

On October 17, 2006, Habeas Corpus left America!

What is Habeas Corpus? Habeas Corpus was written into our Constitution in 1787 and is the law that protects us from unlawful imprisonment.

Help Us Do More

If you have never donated to help us teach peace, please make the peace sign with one hand and look at it. As you look at the V for peace victory sign, consider donating what you earn in two days to help us teach peace. If you are like most Americans, your taxes for war account for more than a month's pay.

Donations of any amount are appreciated. Help accelerate the peace victory by contributing today.

Need more information? Our 501(c)(3) determination letter, IRS Form 990 tax return, and entire business plan are on our website. To donate, just call or visit us online.



Teach Peace Foundation
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MARCH TO MAY ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONT.)

- March 20 - A 7 p.m. presentation in Fremont, CA on *How To Prevent War With Iran*.
- March 21 - A 11 a.m. presentation on US foreign policy in the Middle East with Paul Burke's students at California State University.
- March 22 - A 5 p.m. discussion on how 9/11 is influencing US foreign policy.
- March 23 - A 7 p.m. showing of the movie *9/11 Eyewitness* in Davis, CA.
- March 27 - A noon Teach Peace meeting to expand visibility via the print media.
- April 2 - A 4 p.m. radio interview on the Peter Collins show. The interview is available online at <http://www.peterbcollins.com/shows/2007/04/02>.
- April 4 - A noon discussion with Teach Peace's high school group called Youth for Freedom.
- April 6 - A 2 p.m. *How To Prevent War With Iran* presentation at the Davis Senior Center.
- April 10 - A 7 p.m. showing of *Beyond Treason* in Davis, CA.
- April 12 - A noon presentation to the students at Ohlone College in Fremont, CA.
- April 12 - A 3 p.m. discussion led by Marilyn Perry at the Southport Elementary School in West Sacramento.
- April 12 - A 6 p.m. discussion on how to teach peace to new audiences (e.g., Muslims).
- April 13 - A 11 a.m. class on US foreign policy in Davis, CA.
- April 14 - A 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. educational booth at UC Davis's Picnic day.
- April 15 - A 3 p.m. presentation at the Network for Spiritual Progressives.
- April 20 - A 7 p.m. presentation on *How To Prevent War With Iran* at the First United Methodist Church in Roseville, CA and a 7 p.m. showing of *Loose Change* in Davis, CA.
- April 22 - Discussions with over 500 people at the Teach Peace Sacramento Earth Day booth.
- April 23 - Wither America *Teach Peace* presentation at the Davis Arts Center in Davis, CA.
- April 23 - A 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Teach Peace Program presented to four kindergarten classes (80 students) at Southport Elementary School, West Sacramento.
- April 24 - A 7-9 p.m. presentation at the Peace Institute at Chico State on US Foreign Policy Before & After 9/11.
- April 27 - A 10:30 a.m. class on "US History & The Path To Peace" and a 11:30 a.m. presentation on "Peaceful Alternatives To Nuclear Weapons" at the Kennedy High School in Sacramento, CA.
- May 4-6 - Asilomar conference on "Rethinking the War on Terror."
- May 5 - A 1 -3 p.m. Teach Peace monthly update and planning meeting.
- May 7 - A noon Davis High School presentation and discussion in Davis, CA.
- May 8 - A 7 p.m. showing of the movie *What I've Learned About U.S. Foreign Policy* in Davis, CA.
- May 10 - A 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. presentation and student facilitation at Ohlone College in Fremont.
- May 11-13 - Information sharing booth reaching over 1,500 people at the Whole Earth Festival in Davis, CA and a May 12th 6:30 - 7 p.m. main stage *Teach Peace* presentation.
- May 12 - A Teach Peace sponsored concert by *Judy Fjell*. This 5 p.m. sing-along was followed by a potluck and 7:30 p.m. concert in Sacramento, CA.
- May 14 - A 12:15 p.m. *Teach Peace* presentation to the LIONS club in North Highlands, CA.
- May 17 - A 7 p.m. showing of the movie *Improbable Collapse* in Davis, CA.
- May 20 - Presentation and booth at the Sacramento Peace Festival in William Land Park.
- May 20 - A 3 p.m. *Teach Peace* presentation at the Humanist Association of Greater Sacramento.
- May 25 - The international reach of Teach Peace continues to expand with a class on alternatives to violence in Liberia, Africa. The class was delivered to war orphans.

ADVISORY & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Teach Peace team is looking for people who want to join the Advisory and Executive Committee. If you are interested in volunteering, please call 530-554-7061. There has never been a better time to join the peace movement and with your help we can do even more!

