

Meta Peace Team

Formerly Michigan Peace Team

MPT Web Site
metapeaceteam.org

Lansing and Detroit
Offices

MPT LANSING
2722 E. Michigan Ave.
Suite 101
Lansing, MI 48912
517 484-3178

MPT DETROIT
1950 Trumbull
Detroit, MI 48216
313-483-7527



Inside this Issue

A Peaceful, Just World By Annette Thomas	2-3
It Depends On Your Definition of Justice By Peter Dougherty	3
Bishop Thomas Gumbleton By Karen Donahue, RSM	4, 6
Sigrid Dale By Karen Donahue, RSM	4, 7
Juan Cole By Karen Donahue, RSM	5, 7
Siham Awada Jafaar	5
In Memory Dr. Ali Fadel By Lourdes Fonseca Nearon	5
Contact MPT	8
Join Us at the Signature Event	8

Theme: Building a nonviolent world that bends toward justice ...

Time to Pick Up Our Tools

By Kim Redigan

*an invitation,
a summons,
a call to
action*

The theme of Meta Peace Team's 2013 Signature Event scheduled for November 3, 2013 from 4:00 PM to 7:30 PM at Byblos Banquets, 7258 Chase Road, Dearborn, MI 48126 is more than a nice phrase on a flyer. **Rather, it is an invitation, a summons, a call to action for all of us.** Building a nonviolent world that bends toward justice is the work of MPT as well as the life's work of our keynote speaker, Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, and our two awardees, Professor Juan Cole and Sigrid Dale.

MPT consciously chose the word *building* to emphasize our commitment to *active nonviolence* through engaged peacemaking. As we commemorate our twentieth anniversary, we celebrate two decades of not only yearning for peace but of picking up the tools of nonviolence and using them in our work to build a more just and peaceful world.

These tools include the skills offered in our nonviolence trainings and educational presentations, tools that are honed in the field of domestic and international peace team placements. MPT is also happy to share tools with fellow peace teams from around the country with whom we collaborate as partners in the Shanti Sena Network. As MPT matures, we have become more adept at handling the tools of nonviolence as we continue to expand our toolbox.



Audre Lorde once wrote that, "You can't dismantle the master's house, using the master's tools." In this case, the master of the house is militarism, the war machine that rolls over people in its pursuit of profits, power, and property. We've seen the charred and broken bodies, so-called "collateral damage," and witnessed the social and environmental degradation that war always leaves in its wake. War is indeed a cruel and unrelenting master who never sleeps.

But that's not the end of the story.

We at MPT embrace the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." For us, this is more than an idealistic consolation to grab hold of in tough times.

Continued page 2

Time to Pick Up Our Tools continued

Rather, as we go about the work of peace, we see Dr. King's prophetic promise coming true before our very eyes. Despite the violence that surrounds us, the world, in fact, is bending toward justice and nonviolence. . . and there is a growing body of research as well as anecdotal evidence to support this claim.

In his book titled, *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined*, Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker offers empirical data to support his claim that the "decline of violence may be the most significant and least appreciated development in the history of our species." An even more exhaustive research study showing the efficacy of nonviolence can be found in Erica Chenoweth and Maria Stephen's academic text, *Why Nonviolence Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict*. Both of these books offer evidence that the master's tools of war, domination, and violence are worn, dull, and ready for the scrap heap.

Another harbinger of the bending arc of nonvio-



lence in our world occurred on September 7, 2013 when people of goodwill from around the world joined Pope Francis in a day of prayer and fasting to ward off a U.S. attack on Syria, an attack that

was averted due in part to the peoples' demand for a nonviolent response to the crisis in Syria. That night, Francis asked: "Can we get out of this spiral of sorrow and death? Can we learn once again to walk and live in the ways of peace?"

We at MPT believe that we can break the spiral of violence, dismantle the master's house, and bend the world at least a bit closer to justice by using the tools of active nonviolence.

A Peaceful, Just World

By Annette Thomas



Francis Bellamy composed the Pledge of Allegiance in 1892 for a children's magazine, *The Youth Companion*, in time to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus' accidental arrival in the Americas. Modified four times, the only line

that remained intact was *with liberty and justice for all*. Two words Bellamy wanted to include were *equality* and *fraternity* but he knew he would encounter resistance from committee members who opposed equality for women and African Americans. *With liberty and justice for all* didn't really pertain to all.

Virtue, honor, fairness, goodness and evenhandedness are a few synonyms for justice but are

Virtue, honor, fairness, goodness and evenhandedness are a few synonyms for justice but are applied differently according to socio-economic status and skin color. In 1944, a 14-year-old Black boy named George Junius was wrongly accused of raping two girls and was the youngest to be executed in the electric chair. His family wasn't allowed in the room with him and he used his Bible as a booster seat. He wasn't the only young Black male falsely accused of committing a crime. Our prisons are overflowing with Black men who received astronomical sentences for petty crimes or crimes they didn't commit because they couldn't afford decent legal representation. Yet, wealthy businessmen and world leaders receive a slap on the wrist for similar crimes. Justice sometimes carries a pocket book.

There will always be suffering and injustice in the world but we can work together on finding a solution. How can we go about building a just world,

Continued page 3

A Peaceful, Just World continued

a world where all are treated fairly, kindly and with decency, where we acknowledge that one is no more deserving than the other, that we are all the same?

There is no complex formula to follow. It's quite simple: Treat one another with dignity and respect, focus on making everyone's life a little better, educate our children – teach them how to handle conflict and find peaceful solutions, learn to be satisfied with what our countries and people have to offer and make a valid attempt to avoid going to foreign lands to steal their resources, and

finally, take the billions spent on trying to increase our military might and put it where it would do the most good.

I wish for us all a peaceful, just world – a world free of hatred – a world that is fair and accepting, regardless of the hue of our complexion or the love we have for someone of the same sex, where everyone is treated as an equal – a world free from anger and torment because of our religious beliefs – a world where everyone is treated with human decency and kindness. This world is possible and within our grasp. All we have to do is believe.

It Depends on Your Definition of Justice

By Peter Dougherty

The criminal justice system, throughout recorded history, has been based on a particular understanding of justice. The accused is brought before a judge, king, or court, and if found guilty, is given a sentence of punishment.

One rationale is that giving a punishment is a deterrent against future criminal activity. There is also the seemingly inherent idea that the guilty must be punished, be made to suffer as a consequence of the crime – or there is no justice. This justice cannot let the guilty go free. Also, many feel that vengeance is justice. The victim or family/clan want severe punishment imposed, so they can obtain some relief of the pain of being "violated." Vengeance is a way of "getting even."

Civilizations are based on this understanding of justice. But, there is also a very different view of justice.

On September 18, 1918, Eugene V. Debs was charged with violating the Espionage Act of 1917 for denouncing American participation in World War I. Debs made a statement in court, beginning: "Your Honor, years ago I recognized my kinship with all living beings, and I made up my mind that I was not one bit better than the meanest on earth. I said then, and I say now, that while there is a lower class, I am in it, and while there is a criminal element I am of it, and while there is a soul in prison, I am not free."

Those are the words of a deeply spiritual person. This attitude and breadth of solidarity is at the heart of nonviolence. "Kinship with all living beings." A choice to walk in the shoes of "the other" with compassion. Refusing to demonize those who do wrong.

With this consciousness, the approach to dealing with violent criminal behavior is radically different. Rather than assigning blame and demonizing the doer of evil, there is the attempt to find common ground as a human being, and listen to the one who has done the wrong, as well as the one who has been wronged.

Debs makes it so clear that we have a relationship with every human being, and out of that deep reverence for human life, we strive to find common ground even as we confront the violence of that person.

With this mature adult mind and heart, we seek to re-establish the web of life that is broken when someone does evil. Rather than isolate and punish that one, we seek to find healing. That includes coming to forgiveness that transcends punitive sanctions. It includes leading the one to making things right as much as possible, and nonviolent preventive measures by the community to protect others if the person does not have a change of behavior. **This is the nonviolence that "bends toward justice."**

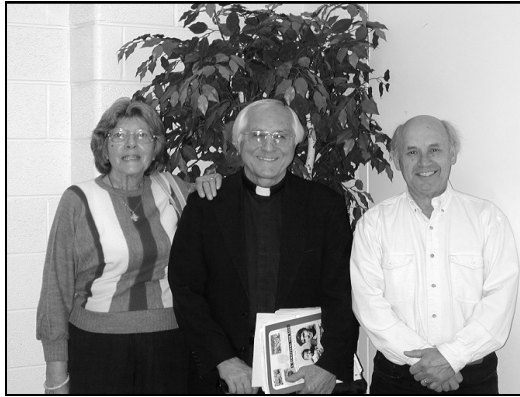
Bishop Thomas Gumbleton

Keynote Speaker

For more than forty years, Bishop Tom Gumbleton has been a prophetic voice on the world stage. His words have reached far beyond the Catholic community and inspired people of many faiths and traditions. Like most prophets, his message has not always been welcomed by those in power. However, he continues to speak with courage and conviction, bringing good news to those who are poor, oppressed and excluded.

Born and raised in Detroit, Tom entered the Catholic priesthood and was ordained in 1956. Just six years later, the Second Vatican Council (Vatican II) opened in Rome, ushering in a new era for the Catholic Church. The council challenged the church to heed the signs of the times and to respond to the critical issues facing humanity. In the document on the Church in the Modern World, the council said, *The joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the men and women of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these too are the joys and the hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the followers of Christ.* As a young priest, Tom embraced the vision of Vatican II and in 1968 he was named a bishop.

Tom has worked tirelessly for peace and justice and has collaborated with others to address the pressing needs of those who are poor and oppressed across the world. He served as president of Bread for the World and was one of the founders of Pax Christi USA, the U.S. branch of Pax Christi, the international Catholic peace movement. In 1979, Tom was one of several religious leaders who traveled to Iran to visit the hostages held captive at the U.S. embassy in Tehran.



Continued page 6

Sigrid Dale

Rachel Corrie Peacemaker Award

Sigrid Dale's passionate commitment to peace and justice is rooted in her firsthand experience of the horrors of war. Born in Stuttgart, Germany in 1929, Sigrid was ten years old when Germany invaded Poland and set off World War II, a global conflict which would claim more than fifty million lives.

Even before the war began, Sigrid's life was impacted by the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party. She remembers her grandmother's distress after the events of *Kristallnacht* (Night of Broken Glass: November 9, 1938), when the Nazis attacked Jewish shops and businesses throughout Germany. Sigrid's own father, who suffered from mental illness and was confined to a psychiatric facility, was also a victim of early Nazi efforts to do away with those it perceived to be undesirable. In 1940 he was murdered by carbon monoxide poisoning.

When the Allies (US and UK) decided to start bombing civilian targets in Germany (hoping that the people would rise up against Hitler), the children of Stuttgart were evacuated to small villages in the countryside. Sigrid went to live with a young woman and her father. They still keep in touch. During this time, Sigrid also lost an aunt and uncle, who suffocated in their basement apartment as incendiary bombs started fires throughout the city and consumed the oxygen in the atmosphere. Thousands suffocated because of the incendiary bombs.

After the war, Sigrid married a GI and in 1948 came to the United States as a war bride. They settled in Indiana and raised three children.

Continued page 7

Meta Peace Team's

Sunday, November 3, 2013 • 4 pm – 7:30 pm • Awards, Keynote

Byblos Banquets, 7258 Chas

AWARDS: Sigrid Dale will receive the Rachel Corrie Peacemaker Award and

Juan R. Cole

Edward Said Scholar Activist Award



Juan Cole's father was too young to serve in World War II. However, in 1948 John Herbert Cole enlisted in the army, a decision that would have a profound impact on the life of his son Juan. After a stint in Okinawa, John H. Cole returned to the United States, married Laura Katherine McIlwee and moved to New Mexico where Juan was born on the Sandia Base in October 1952.

In the Latino culture of Albuquerque, a boy with a father named John was often given the name Juanito. For John R. Cole that name stuck and he became known as Juan. Laura Cole was a fan of Desi Arnez, star of the hit comedy *I Love Lucy*, hence her son's middle name, Ricardo.

In 1954, John H. Cole was sent to Paris where the family lived for four years. Juan went to a French kindergarten. He and his younger brother Eric learned French and had opportunities to travel in Europe. In 1957, on the way back from an extended visit in the United States, the ship on which Juan, his mother and brother were traveling made a stop in Casablanca, Morocco. This was Juan's first visit to the Arab world. Over the next several years, John Cole was posted to a number of bases in the United States. Juan attended twelve different schools in twelve years.

Continued page 7

Siham Awada Jafaar

Event Emcee



As a Public Relations and Communications Specialist and Consultant, Siham Awada Jafaar is a well respected and established practitioner in both community and media relations.

Siham is Co-President and Principle Partner at 3D Consulting and Communications

She is a practicing mediator in civil, probate and domestic relations mediation and is currently an executive Board of Directors Member for the Wayne Mediation Center.

Siham hosts and produces the cable network shows "Community Connection with Siham Awada Jaafar" as well as the cable show "Off the Cuff" with two wonderful co-hosts, Basima Farhat and Jennifer Giering on WDHT cable network servicing the Metro-Detroit Area.

Siham is the Chairwoman of the ACCESS Coalition against Domestic Violence, a founding member of Friends United, an executive secretary for the Congress of Arab American Organizations (CAAO), and an advisory board member of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee. She is the founder, producer, and coordinator of "Images and Perceptions," an educational diversity workshop geared towards dispelling stereotypes and misconceptions about Arab Americans.

Karen Donahue, RSM authored the articles on pages 4 –7

In memory of Dr. Ali Fadel

Lourdes Fonseca Nearon shares that on October 4, 2013, Dr. Ali Fadel of Dearborn Heights, Michigan, died suddenly and unexpectedly, leaving behind a beautiful family. Dr. Ali Fadel was a loyal and dedicated supporter of MPT for many years. He supported our work throughout the world. We at MPT extend our most heartfelt condolences to his family. Dr. Fadel will be greatly missed.

2013 Signature Event

**...e, Communal Action, A Delicious Middle Eastern Meal, and Closing
...se Road, Dearborn, MI 48126**

...d Professor Juan Cole will receive the Edward Said Scholar Activist Award

Bishop Thomas Gumbleton continued

In the early 1980s, Tom served on a committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops that drafted the historic peace pastoral letter, *The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response*. This letter emphasized the Church's opposition to nuclear weapons and called for a world free from the threat of nuclear annihilation.

Tom's efforts on behalf of peace have taken him to the far corners of the world. He has traveled to Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Iran, Guatemala, Israel, Palestine, Columbia, Haiti, and Peru to advocate for an end to war and the abolition of nuclear weapons. He has engaged in acts of nonviolent civil disobedience in opposition to war, most recently at the White House during the buildup to the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq.

In recent years, Tom has become very active on Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Haitians have experienced the violence of grinding poverty, political oppression and the impact of a devastating earthquake that left large segments of the country in ruins. Tom was close friends with the late Father Gerald Jean Juste, pastor of St. Clair's Parish in Port au Prince. St. Clair parishioners have built a health clinic, *Kay Lasante*, which means House of Health in Haitian Creole.

Kay Lasante operates under the basic principle that health care is a human right, not a privilege. *Kay Lasante* is committed to serving the poor and marginalized who lack access to much-needed health care services. *Kay Lasante* seeks to embody the vision of Father Jean Juste who served the poorest with dignity and compassion in the

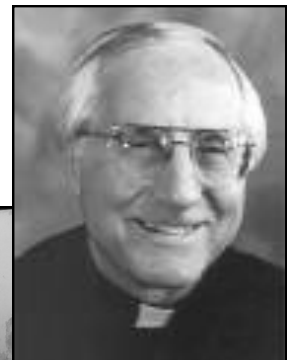
spirit of the gospel mission to care for the sick and seek justice for those who are poor.

Tom has reached out to victims of clerical sexual abuse and encouraged them to come forward. In 2005 he testified before the Ohio House Judiciary Committee in support of legislation that would open a one-year window for victims to file lawsuits over sexual abuse no matter how long ago it took place. This courageous action drew sharp criticism from his fellow bishops who opposed the measure.

When one of his siblings revealed to the family that he was gay, Tom was confronted with his own homophobia. His struggle with this issue has given him new insights and has enabled him to respond to the needs of the LGBT community with care and understanding. He has become a strong advocate for gay rights within the Catholic community.

The role of the prophet is not only to denounce evil but also to articulate a new vision for the people. Bishop Tom Gumbleton has denounced the evil of war and nuclear weapons. He has also announced a new vision- a world in which basic human needs are fulfilled and the dignity of each person is honored and respected.

Meta Peace Team is delighted to welcome Tom as its 2013 Signature Event keynote speaker.





Sigrid Dale continued

Sigrid's experience growing up in pre and post-war Germany made her very sensitive to political

realities. In the early 1950s she was deeply distressed by the case of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, who were convicted and executed as spies for Russia. Sigrid put her concern into action and joined Indiana Citizens Against the Death Penalty. Sigrid's father had died at the hands of the state. She felt a responsibility to speak out.

Sigrid's involvement increased as she became aware of more situations that demanded justice. In 1981 she was active in efforts opposing the destruction of Detroit and Hamtramck neighborhoods to make way for the GM Poletown plant. Ronald Reagan's military buildup during the 1980s spurred Sigrid to join the Nuclear Weapons Freeze

campaign, which evolved into Peace Action.

Sigrid's witness on behalf of peace and justice has taken her to Williams International, Fort Benning (School of the Americas), Los Alamos, the Nevada Test Site, the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, the Strategic Air Command base in Omaha, Oak Ridge and the West Bank, where she and her husband Ron participated in Meta (formerly Michigan) Peace Team's first team to occupied Palestine in 2001.

There is hardly a peace and justice organization in southeast Michigan that does not count Sigrid Dale among its members. She has organized dozens of bus trips to Washington, D.C., New York and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Even though age and health challenges have slowed her down a bit in recent years, Sigrid continues to be an inspiration. *I am my brother's keeper* has been the guide for Sigrid's adult life.

Meta Peace Team is proud to name her its 2013 Rachel Corrie Peacemaker Award recipient.

Juan Cole continued

In early 1967, Cole family moved to Asmara, Ethiopia (now Eritrea) where John worked in the Satellite Command. Being in Africa was a great adventure for 14-year-old Juan, who encountered Muslims and mosques for the first time. On the way home from Asmara in the summer of 1968, the Coles stopped in Beirut. Juan fell in love with the city.

After graduating from Northwestern University in 1975, Juan applied to the American University in Beirut to do masters in religious studies. He was very interested in the Shiite tradition in Islam, which at that time was not well understood or studied. He arrived in Beirut just as the Lebanese civil war was getting started. Classes at AU Beirut never began. Juan ended up doing his master's at American University Cairo. While in Cairo, Juan began studying Persian.

After graduation in 1978, Juan returned to Beirut where he worked as a translator for a magazine. Beirut was a war zone at this time and Juan suspects he had a slight case of PTSD from his time in there.



In 1979, Juan began his doctoral work at UCLA. His dissertation focused on the history of Shiite clerical institutions and his research took him to India, Pakistan and the India Office in London. He received his doctorate in 1984.

Juan is the Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History at the University of Michigan. For thirty years he has sought to explicate the relationship between the West and Islam by exploring its historical context. His books include *Engaging the Muslim World* (2009) and *Napoleon's Egypt: Invading the Middle East* (2007). He is a regular guest on many TV news programs and hosts *Informed Comment*, a blog which provides independent and informed perspectives on the Middle Eastern and American politics.

Meta Peace Team is proud to honor Professor Cole for his many contributions to global peace and understanding.



MPT LANSING
 2722 E. Michigan Ave., Suite 101
 Lansing, MI 48912
 517 484-3178
 metapeaceteam@gmail.com

MPT DETROIT
 1950 Trumbull
 Detroit, MI 48216
 313-483-7527
 metapeaceteam.detroit@gmail.com

Our Vision:

We seek a just world grounded in nonviolence and respect for the sacred interconnectedness of all life.

Our Mission:

MPT pursues peace through active nonviolence in places of conflict..

Our Goals:

- Recruiting, training, and placing Peace Teams both domestically and internationally;
- Educating the public to the vision and practice of nonviolence, particularly as it relates to nonviolent conflict intervention;
- Cooperating, supporting, and participating with local peace and justice groups, particularly as it relates to our Mission; and,
- Providing training in active nonviolence designed for the specific needs of the participants.

Meta Peace Team Web Site: metapeaceteam.org

International Peace Team Blogs:

<http://MPTinPalestine.Blogspot.com>

<http://MPTinJuarez.Blogspot.com>

MPT Newsletters, 2008-2013, are available online

<http://michiganpeaceteamnewsletters.blogspot.com>

2013 MPT Newsletter Team

Nancy Ayotte, IHM

Barbara Nolin

Kim Redigan

Annette Thomas

Elizabeth Walters, IHM

Newsletter Artwork

Nancy Ayotte creates all the artwork for MPT newsletters. Her creations are a pure gift to MPT and our readers. This gift is yours to freely use in other peace work.

MPT Core Members

Jon Roy Castillo

Jasiu Malinowski

Mary Pat Dewey, OP

Paul Pratt

Peter Dougherty

Sheri Wander

Mary Ann Ford, IHM

MPT Staff Names and Email Addresses

Mary Hanna

maryhanna.mpt@gmail.com

Nicole Rohrkemper

nicoler.mpt@gmail.com

Elizabeth Walters

elizabethwalters.mpt@gmail.com

Weekly MPT Volunteers

Margaret Beahan

Anna Malavisi

Mark Zussman

Charlene Jamison

Lourdes Nearon

Barbara Kinsey

Kim Redigan

MPT's 2013 Signature Event and 20th Anniversary Celebration!

Theme: Building a nonviolent world that bends toward justice

Featuring: Bishop Thomas Gumbleton

*an
invitation,
a summons,
a call to
action*

Date: Sunday, November 3, 2013

Time: 4:00 PM to 7:30 PM (Doors open at 3:00 PM)

Place: Byblos Banquets, 7258 Chase Road, Dearborn, MI 48126

Price: \$50 per person; \$500 table of ten; \$35 student;

(free, secure parking included)

MPT Annual Awards

Rachel Corrie Peacemaker Award - Sigrid Dale

Edward Said Scholar Activist Award - Professor Juan Cole

Event Emcee: Siham Awada Jaafar

Host and Producer of WDHT TV "Community Connection" and "Off the Cuff" and Founder and Producer of "Images and Perceptions," an educational diversity workshop geared towards dispelling stereotypes and misconceptions about Arab Americans

To reserve your seat: Mail check payable to Meta Peace Team, and address the envelop to: Mary Ann Ford, Registration Chairperson, 24071 Oneida, Oak Park, MI 48237 If you have a person or group that you would like to sit with, please indicate.

- Or, pay via credit card at mptsigevent.blogspot.com