

Peace News May 2008

Dear Psychologists for Peace and others,

Peaceful greetings to you all.

The start of 2008 has been a planning and preparation phase for many of our state groups, after a busy year in 2007 with peace art and peace literature awards to run. There are some very interesting plans being discussed for workshops, seminars, 'peace games', and art exhibitions, and we look forward to letting you know about these events when they are up and running.

Don Tugby, PFP (QLD) convener, has decided to resign as QLD convener after several years of holding the space open for peace up in Queensland. We sincerely thank Don for his great contributions over the years and wish him all the best in his retirement.

We are very pleased to welcome Winnifred Louis as the new Queensland convener, and wish her luck as she re-establishes the group. Winnifred is a Lecturer in social psychology at University of Queensland, with a special interest in the dynamics of conflict, and peace activism.

At National Office we have been busy updating our most popular Wise Ways to Win poster for an upcoming re-print – so this newly refreshed version of our successful resource should be available sometime in the next few months.

We are also pleased to let you know that Psychologists for Peace has joined the International Network of Psychologists for Social Responsibility. INPsySR is a network of organizations that use psychology to attempt to understand and improve pressing social issues. We look forward to working together with other peace groups around the world.

For those of you who are APS members, please remember to renew your PFP membership in the upcoming APS subscriptions. In order for you to remain a member of PFP you must explicitly indicate that on your subscription. A small (tax deductible) fee is charged by the APS that does go to PFP. To all members - we sincerely appreciate your willingness to support the group and the cause we stand for.

Yours in peace,

Dr Susie Burke – National Convenor

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Psychologists for Peace

2008 PFP Peace Project Award – Entries due May 30, 2008

Eligibility

The Award is made annually to assist a student enrolled in an accredited fourth year Psychology program or Masters by Coursework Psychology program in carrying out an empirical project on a peace related topic or disseminating its findings.

Value

The Award is for a minimum of \$500. If there are projects of sufficient merit more than one award may be made depending on yearly funding.

Criteria for the award

Projects will be judged on their scientific merit and their potential contribution to theory or practice in:

- the peaceful resolution of conflict;
- understanding and preventing aggressive behaviour; and
- the fostering of harmonious relationships whether at global, intergroup or interpersonal levels.

The assessment may take into account the academic record, experience and other qualifications of the student, which may be relevant to the successful completion of the proposed project.

The project proposal

The proposal should begin with a cover page showing the project title, the name of the student and address for correspondence, the course and institution, and the name and email address of the supervisor.

The proposal should include the project title, a statement of its aim, a brief review of the most relevant literature, the hypotheses to be investigated, a description of all relevant aspects of the design including the participants, method and planned statistical analysis, a budget summary and justification, timetable and a short list of the most relevant references.

The proposal should also indicate how the project may contribute to the aim of the Award, as stated in the above criteria, and the anticipated method of disseminating the findings, e.g., conference poster, publication.

The total length of the proposal should not exceed 1500 words. Add a copy of the academic record of the student (and other qualifications if relevant) and a statement from the supervisor(s) supporting the viability of the project. No special form is required.

Submission

Entries must be lodged by May 30, 2008 with the coordinator of the project:

Associate Professor Tony Thompson
School of Humanities & Social Sciences
Charles Sturt University
Locked Bag 588
Wagga Wagga, NSW 2678
Email: athompson@csu.edu.au

Electronic or hard copies are acceptable. An acknowledgment will be sent on receipt of each entry.

Selection process

The award will be made by a panel of at least three judges from different states of Australia. If in the opinion of the judges no entry sufficiently meets the criteria, no winner shall be chosen.

From the Anthony Marsella Lecture

On Friday 14th March, Victorian members of Psychologists for Peace were fortunate to have the opportunity to attend a lecture by Dr Anthony Marsella, President of Psychologists for Social Responsibility (PsySR U.S.) and author of numerous books and articles on cross cultural issues, peace and conflict, cultural diversity, conflict resolution and terrorism. Several members of the Victorian steering committee were privileged to also attend a dinner with Tony after the lecture, which presented a wonderful opportunity to hear more about the work that Tony has been doing, and PsySR's plans to develop an international network of psychologists for social responsibility.

Tony is an entertaining and engaging speaker, and his lecture on cultures of conflict, cultures of war and cultures of peace was fascinating. He is a candid and outspoken advocate for peace, and against war, and was very critical of the current situation in the US. He has a very strong sense of right and wrong, where 'right' is about being fair and just, and having compassion and respect for others. As he says, "We are all in the milky way galaxy together".

During the lecture, Tony presented models that he has developed detailing all of the factors that he sees as supporting a culture of war. Whilst his reference point was America, there are many parallels here in Australia, and one couldn't fail to be just a little overwhelmed by how entrenched we currently are in a culture of war! Tony also outlined 15 factors that he sees as essential to the creation of a culture of peace. These include: peace universities, PR campaign, making churches temples of peace, peace museums, peace monuments etc. People who are interested in his presentation can contact me (s.burke@psychology.org.au) to get a copy of his slide show.

Tony also shared his views on Australia's strengths as a multicultural society. Diversity, he said, is a defining feature of Australian's culture, and we have the potential to model to the world, and set standards for how to negotiate the complexities of diversity, often under conditions of fear and anxiety. In a way it felt like he was offering us an invitation to rise to the challenge.

He issued several challenges throughout his talk. Underlying all that he said was a challenge to each of us to get activated and to do our bit to counter the destructive culture of war within which we live, and to start building cultures of peace. As he said at the start of his talk, "Is it possible to bring peace? I think, yes, it is".

Like Tony, we can all endeavour to "live without separation between who we are as a person, what we do professionally, and our responsibilities as a citizen". And his concluding comments are also worth remembering: "Whilst the task is not upon thee to complete, neither are thou free to desist from doing your part". (Rabbi P Terphon 200 CE).

Dr Susie Burke
National Convenor, Psychologists for Peace

Article: *Some Thoughts on Promotion of Social Responsibility in Psychology: A Hidden Issue* by Anthony J. Marsella.

Introduction

PsySR is concerned with abuses of psychology's knowledge and practices - abuses that have implications and/or consequences for our commitment to 'social responsibility'. Sometimes, as is the case with psychology's role in torture, the abuses are so obvious and so malicious in their consequences that they elicit an immediate widespread protest and cry for urgent action. But sometimes the abuses of psychology are less obvious, and their consequences hidden behind good intentions, cultural blindness (i.e., Is a fish aware of water?), and a reluctance to grasp the full consequences of what is happening.

For the full article go to

http://www.psysr.org/archives/newsletters/PsySR_Herald_Dec_2007.pdf

Artists for Peace – Western Australia

PFP (WA) is supporting the WA branch of *Medical Association for the Prevention of War* in a exhibition titled 'Artists for Peace' with local professional artists. Two of the PFP art prize winners have the opportunity to exhibit their work at this event. Artists for Peace is running daily from 10–18 May 2008, 10am–5pm, at the Moores Building Contemporary Art Gallery, 46 Henry Street Fremantle, Western Australia.

ERIS project update

Most work in the Victoria PFP group centres around the *Enhancing Relationships in School Communities (ERIS)*. This year, with the help of an ARC Linkage grant, 10 schools are involved in the next phase of the project. Each school forms a core team of about 5 staff, including the Principal or Assistant Principal. This team attends 6 professional learning days about conflict resolution and cultural diversity over a 1 ½ year period. Each school has also committed to a full day of PD for the whole school staff to attend.

Nuclear Weapons Campaign celebrates first birthday

(from the ICAN newsletter - <http://www.icanw.org/>).

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), launched a year ago by Australian doctors, already has some major wins on the board and is spreading throughout the world.

ICAN couldn't come at a more important time with experts warning that "we stand on the brink of a second nuclear age". 26,000 nuclear weapons remain in our world, thousands on high alert, and most nuclear armed countries are modernising, not abandoning their nuclear weapons.

Psychologists for Peace is part of the growing list of faith, union, environment, peace, professional groups that have joined the campaign – with the belief that it is our collective voices that will compel leaders to decisively act to abolish these worst weapons of terror. ICAN has already distributed thousands of leaflets, engaged with thousands more via the internet, and spoken at a great number of events.

In Australia the campaign has had major successes. The Australian Government has pledged to become a world leader on negotiations about nuclear weapons – to re-engage diplomatic efforts, including supporting a Nuclear Weapons Convention. This month, for the first time ever, non-government representatives will be part of the Australian delegation to the nuclear Non Proliferation meeting in Geneva. Recently ICAN organised a consultation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the participation of 23 organisations gave the Government a clear sign that the community is passionate and committed to see action on this issue.

ICAN has been launched in numerous countries in Europe and Asia, and is gaining momentum in the USA. A draft model Nuclear Weapons Convention, produced by ICAN with other international experts, was tabled at last year's UN General Assembly. At the same General Assembly meeting 127 Governments voted to support commencement of negotiations to a Nuclear Weapons Convention – sadly Australia was not among them. Opinion polls released last

year show a vast majority of people want immediate action on nuclear weapons. Even cold-war warriors such as Henry Kissinger are calling for immediate action towards a nuclear weapon free world.

ICAN has recently launched a new brief leaflet, a mini-mag and an education resource and so is ready to develop significantly in its second year.

Please join in. Join the campaign at www.icanw.org; distribute leaflets amongst your friends; ask for an ICAN speaker at your next event; let our Government know you want to see an end to nuclear weapons; and, if you can, donate to our campaign. You can contact ICAN at info@icanw.org or 03-9347 4795.

Torture is for Amateurs

Published by Taylor & Francis Group, LLC, in December 2007, this [Special Issue](#) of the *Journal of Peace Psychology* is based on a seminar for psychologists and former military interrogators sponsored by Psychologists for Social Responsibility and Georgetown University. The seminar included four recently retired, senior U.S. Army interrogators--veterans of the first Gulf War and the current war in Iraq, as well as of wars in Vietnam, Grenada, Bosnia and Kosovo--and seven research psychologists from the fields of social, cognitive, forensic, cultural, political and peace psychology.

Psychologists for Social Responsibility finds International Network.

PsySR is pleased to announce the founding of an International Network of Psychologists for Social Responsibility. This new global network will work to link groups from around the world that focus on social responsibility in psychology and related disciplines.

- To unite the efforts of psychological organizations around the world in which psychologists currently are involved and which work to advance peace, conflict resolution, and social justice.
- To promote communication and cooperation among psychologists and psychology groups.
- To support to each other's efforts to promote peace and justice in their own countries.
- To facilitate contacts with international organizations of psychology and related disciplines.
- To provide advice to other international institutions, government departments, and political and social organizations.
- To encourage social responsibility within psychology and among psychologists.

Report from A Just Australia – end of TPV's

(Extract from A Just Australia – May Refugee News, <http://www.ajustaustralia.com/home.php>)

It has just been announced that the Temporary Protection Visa regime will end. The regulations have not yet been lodged, but it is expected this will happen by June/July. This change applies to TPVs and THVs (the visas granted under the Pacific Solution). People will essentially be automatically converted over – they will have to go through the usual health, character and security checks but will not have to have their claims reassessed as they currently do when applying for a further protection visa (FPV) once their first TPV expires.

You can get more details on the changes on the Immigration website

A Just Australia applauds the Minister for making this step, which will have a profound positive effect on many traumatised refugees living in our community.

There is an area that still needs to be resolved for TPV holders - family reunion. People on TPVs have been barred from family reunion programs, so we hope that the Minister will instruct the Department to give priority to applications from former TPV holders who have already been waiting for many years to be reunited with family members, many of whom are still in danger.

Please send letters of thanks to let the Government know how many people support these positive changes.

Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship
The Hon. Kevin Rudd, MP, Prime Minister
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600

Peace articles

The Journal of Social Issues Vol. 63 Issue 2 is a special issue on emotional climate, human security and culture of peace. The objective of this issue is to review the work that have been published on emotional climate and to begin the work of relating emotional climate to research on human security and cultures of peace. It contains many fascinating articles – see below for one example.

Personal Happiness: The Prerequisite for World Peace?

People with Strong Sense of Well-Being Support Democracy, Equality, Nonviolence. A new study in the Journal of Social Issues states that individuals with a strong sense of personal well-being tend to have more confidence in the government, express more support for democracy and exhibit less racial intolerance. These individual level differences are moderated by nation-level societal factors such as violence, inequality and economic development. "Global peace efforts often give strong emphasis to economic and democratic development within societies," say study co-authors Ed Diener and William Tov. "Our results provide support for these efforts in showing that the social, political and economic structures of a society are related to peace, as reflected in the attitudes of the people living in that society." Diener cautions, however, that the correlation between happiness and peace is not simple, and that happy, satisfied people are well aware of their political and social surroundings. Living in a wealthy democracy does not guarantee support for democracy—particularly if people are unhappy and dissatisfied. The findings of the study suggest that dissatisfied people who live in wealthy democracies may be even more critical and less supportive of democracy than dissatisfied people who live in poorer,

less democratic nations. "Confidence in the government is enhanced in those countries where homicide rates are low, economic inequality is low, and people are happy and satisfied with their lives," says Diener. "Although efforts to improve societal conditions are implicitly aimed at increasing happiness, we suggest that well-being itself be more explicitly stated in the ideals of a peaceful society," say the authors. "Well-being is not just a final goal, but a key factor in fostering and maintaining the conditions for peace."

This study, "Subjective Well-Being and Peace" by Ed Diener and William Tov, is published in: Vol. 63 Issue 2 of the Journal of Social Issues

To read the abstract of this article, please visit:

<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/josi/63/2>

Mandela and the 'Elders'

Extract from *Mandela and 'The Elders' Aim to Save the World*

by Kate Snow - Copyright (c) 2007 ABC News Internet Ventures, Article printed from

www.CommonDreams.org, URL to article:

<http://www.commondreams.org/archive/2007/07/18/2612/>

JOHANNESBURG - The Elders, a new alliance made up of an elite group of senior statesmen dedicated to solving thorny global problems, unveiled itself today in Johannesburg. The rollout coincided with founding member Nelson Mandela's 89th birthday.

After a grand entrance, Mandela, the former South African president, announced the rest of the Elders.

The members include Desmond Tutu, South African archbishop emeritus of Capetown; former U.S. President Jimmy Carter; former U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan; Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and Mohammed Yunus, the Nobel laureate and founder of the Green Bank in Bangladesh.

The group plans to get involved in some of the world's most pressing problems -climate change, pandemics like AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, violent conflicts.

It was an extraordinary gathering; a who's who of famous international leaders, with enough emotion to move some of them to tears. Under a large white futuristic dome, British billionaire Richard Branson and rock star Peter Gabriel, who conceived the idea for the Elders, gathered enough star power to change the world, or at least that's the hope.

"The structures we have to deal with these problems are often tied down by political, economic and geographic constraints," Mandela said. The Elders, he argued, will face no such constraints.

Seven years ago, Branson and Gabriel approached Mandela about the Elders idea, and he agreed to help them recruit others. "This group of elders will bring hope and wisdom back into the world," Branson said. "They'll play a role in bringing us together. Using their collective experience, their moral courage and their ability to rise above the parochial concerns of nations, they can help make our planet a more peaceful, healthy and equitable place to live," Branson

said. "Let us call them 'global elders,' not because of their age but because of individual and collective wisdom."

Calling it "the most extraordinary day" of his life, Gabriel said, "The dream was there might still be a body of people in whom the world could place their trust."

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who moderated the event and will serve as its leader, was moved to tears after Gabriel sang an impromptu accapella version of his hit song "Biko," written about a famous South African political prisoner.

Branson and Gabriel have raised enough money to fund this group for three years.

Also on board are names less well known in the United States, including Indian microfinance leader Ela Bhatt; former Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland; former Chinese ambassador to the United States Li Zhaoxing. The group left an empty seat onstage " symbolically" for an elder who was invited, but could not attend because she is under house arrest in Burma, Nobel laureate and human rights advocate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Mandela and Carter emphasized the group's ability to talk to anyone without risk. "We will be able to risk failure in worthy causes, and we will not need to claim credit for any successes that might be achieved," said Carter. Carter said the group does not want to step on or interfere with other positive work that nations or organizations are doing but wants to supplement that work.

Several members acknowledged that the actual activities and actions of the group remain to be determined. There are no titles, no ranking of the members. And it is not clear if they will travel as a group, deploy individual members to global hot spots, or simply sit in a room together to develop strategies or assist those who are suffering find help.

For more info go to: <http://www.theelders.org/welcome/>

And from the International Peace Network, some new film/DVD resources...

1. Initiatives of Change (IoFC) is an international NGO that promotes peace and understanding under the vision of "Building trust across the world's divides..." We work at all levels but mainly with individuals and communities in helping people understand each other. We're one of the few NGO with consultative status with the UN. We produced a film last year called "The Imam and the Pastor". It has served as an awesome tool that gives a huge lesson on understanding, respect and reconciliation. <http://www.iofc.org/en/resources/imampastor> Showings during the year have caused such an impact in different communities across the country. Our website www.ca.iofc.org . For more information, contact Alex Ramirez [[alex.ramirez\[at\]ca.iofc.org](mailto:alex.ramirez@ca.iofc.org) <<mailto:alex.ramirez@ca.iofc.org>>]

2. Faces of the Enemy (Video) - As relevant today as when it was first released, **Faces of the Enemy** follows social psychologist Sam Keen as he unmasks how individuals and nations dehumanize their enemies to justify the inhumanity of war. Using archival news footage, public service announcements, and editorial cartoons, Keen unveils the same frightening pattern in conflict after conflict - World War II, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, Islamic and Christian

Fundamentalism - and prefigures the current War on Terrorism. First we identify ourselves as victims. Then we blame, demonize and finally dehumanize our adversaries, rationalizing our murder of other human beings. California Newsreel is proud to re-release this important film for the first time on DVD with special commentary by Bill Jersey and Sam Keen. **Particularly relevant is a complimentary supplement only on DVD**, illuminating complexities in the media and military worlds of today's conflicts in the Middle East. Also available on videocassette, this is a film whose urgent message needs to be heard now more than ever. For more information, see <http://www.newsreel.org/nav/title.asp?tc=CNO174> . **5 Star Must See Rating.**

3. Think Peace: Portrait of a 21st Century Movement Where were you on February 15, 2003? New film looks at modern day Peace Movement.

Filmed at the World Peace Forum held in Vancouver, British Columbia from June 23 - 28, 2006 the film examines the make up and direction of the peace movement in the 21st century.

On February 15th, 2003 the largest protest in human history occurred. Millions of people from all seven continents marched down the street of more than 800 cities to show that they did not support the invasion of Iraq. Yet even at the height of its power the movement was not able to stop the war. What went wrong?

This and other questions are explored in the film as we talk to such diverse people as Hans Blix, Rex Weyler, and Holly Near, among others. With over 40 citizen journalists participating in the project, over 120 hours of footage were captured and distilled into a 55 minute film by director Corey Ogilvie of DreamHouse Cinema. For more info go to <http://thinkpeacemovie.com/>

4. Three Women for Peace While producing Think Peace: Portrait of a 20th Century Movement, we became aware of the role that powerful women are playing in implementing peace in this century. We shot so much insightful and moving footage at the World Peace Forum, that we could not include it all in our documentary. We invite you to listen to extra footage of three of these inspirational women:

Marianne Williamson became renowned for her dedication to the Peace Alliance and a strong advocate for a Department of Peace. Marianne spoke at the World Peace Forum on Sunday, June 25, 2006.

Medea Benjamin is a celebrated activist with Code Pink and since we talked to her she has become even more outspoken against the war. Medea talked to us at the World Peace Forum on Tuesday, June 27, 2006 about Code Pink's Peace Ribbon campaign.

Judith LeBlanc is a co-chair of United for Peace and Justice, one of the largest anti-war coalitions in the U.S. Speaking on a panel at the World Peace Forum on Wednesday, June 28, 2006 on "Organizing in the U.S." Judith outlines some of the strategy that resulted in the Democrats capturing the U.S. Congress in November 2006.

To view go to: <http://thinkpeacemovie.com/media.php>