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The Peace Abbey Newsletter

The Arts Retreat on Martin Luther King Day of Service

February 2010

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Creating an environment that offers sacred space honoring all sentient beings and promoting cruelty free living along with a mission that calls us to action as pacifists in a world suffering from the ravages of war feels exactly what we should be doing.

The Peace Abbey welcomes individuals and organizations to plan a retreat for a day or overnight.

May Howard Zinn's light and inspiration guide us in the years to come as it has in the past>

Peace, Dot Walsh

Howard Zinn Passes On



Howard Zinn, the Boston University historian and political activist who was an early opponent of US involvement in Vietnam and whose books, such as "A People's History of the United States," inspired young and old to rethink the way textbooks present the American experience, died today in Santa Monica, Calif, where he was traveling. He was 87.

Boston Globe

The Day the Peace Movement Cried

A Peoples History of Howard Zinn: Now it is our turn to tell his story through our own eyes:

The passing of Howard Zinn, the eloquent, gentle, outspoken, charismatic professor from Boston University leaves the Boston area peace community and the nation without its most influential leader and resource. .

Once anyone heard Howard Zinn speak or met him in person, they discovered, if they were open, the activist that lies within themselves. We could always count on Howard Zinn to illuminate the complicated issues of war and peace while bringing out the best in the peace movement.

• **Got Milk? Got Ethics? Animal Rights v. U.S. Dairy Industry**

Undercover Videos Show Ugly Realities Behind the Scenes of 'Factory Dairy Farms' By ANNA SCHECTER and BRIAN ROSS Jan. 26, 2010



Undercover videos produced by animal rights groups are fueling a debate over the need for new laws to regulate the treatment of American dairy cows.

The graphic videos include one made inside a huge New York dairy operation where cows never go outside, have the ends of their tails cut off in painful procedures without anesthesia, and are seen being abused by one employee who hits a cow over the head with a wrench when it refuses to move.

An investigator for the group Mercy for Animals worked at the New York dairy farm, Willet Dairy, one of the largest in the state, for two months as a mechanic.

Willet supplies to Leprino Foods, based in Denver, which produces mozzarella cheese and other cheese products that are used at chains including Pizza Hut, Papa John's, and Domino's.

"These animals are really treated as little more than milk-producing machines," said Nathan Runkle, executive director of Mercy for Animals. "The overall environment at this facility was really a culture of cruelty and neglect."

Portions of the video will be played in reports to be aired this evening on ABC World News with Diane Sawyer and later on Nightline.

The practice of cutting off the ends of the tails of dairy cows -- known as tail docking -- is found in about half of American dairy farms, according to a 2002 U.S. Department of Agriculture report, although a dairy industry trade group says it is in decline.

The practice was banned in California last year and a bill to prohibit tail docking was introduced last week in the New York legislature.

"Science has shown repeatedly this practice is barbaric and totally unnecessary," said Jennifer Fearing, California director of the Humane Society of the United States, which helped push the passage of legislation in Sacramento.

The dairy trade group says tail docking helps

He educated and informed the movement in such a way that the onus was always on us to get involved because that's what his life was all about.

Howard, was an icon within the peace movement and was, personally, the symbol of peace as much as the very peace sign itself, as he greatly influenced the style, disposition and tenor of anti-war actions in Boston/Cambridge and throughout the country.

Howard's very presence at a march, sit-in, teach-in or act of civil disobedience elevated the importance and prestige of the action and had a calming effect on those involved, reducing the likelihood of irresponsible and violent behaviors that prove so counterproductive.

Howard Zinn was, in style and substance, the unofficial Mayor of the Peace Movement, the one individual whose example of how to be a peace activist was universally acknowledged, accepted and respected within the ranks of activist groups. For countless people, he demonstrated how to express one's outrage against war, thoughtfully, while maintaining one's dignity and an abiding commitment to the values of nonviolence and the Golden Rule.

Howard Zinn taught us that to be peacemakers we must first be peaceable people.

Herein lies yet another important aspect of his rich and valued legacy. For this we are forever grateful.

He lives on in what we do for one another in the name of peace and in the spirit of justice.

Howard Zinn received the Peace Abbey Courage of Conscience Award in 1996 along with the late Ralph DiGia of the War Resisters League.

Lewis Randa, Founder The Peace Abbey

The Cost of War

prevent cows from spreading manure and filth with their tails in barn conditions.

The Willet Dairy ships 40,000 gallons of milk a day, mostly to New York City.

Odell says large dairy operations like his, called "factory farms" by animal rights groups, need the large scale to be able to afford expensive equipment and the necessary workforce.

Animal rights groups say the big operations create abuse. "Every single time that we send investigators undercover into America's factory farms, they emerge with startling evidence of animal cruelty and neglect," said Runkle of Mercy for Animals.

"We really think that this goes hand in hand and is inherent in industrial animal agriculture where these animals are really being treated and viewed as little more than production units," he said.

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• **March 5th 7PM Follow the Women Tour**

Colleen McGuire, daughter of a local Walpole woman known for her gifts of peace cranes, will be here to talk about the organization that heads to the Middle East every year cycling to promote peace. Women from around the world including the First Lady of Syria and Queen Rania of Jordan join together to bring the message of solidarity among people.

• **She's 29 Years Young and Holding for 71 Years!**

Defender of Truth, Justice, and the American Way, Protector of The Constitution, Democracy, and the Environment, Champion of Campaign Finance Reform, Public Funding of Elections, and Voting Rights



Doris GRANNY D Haddock Is 100 Years Old

By Jo Commerford \$57,077.60.

That's what we're paying per minute. Keep that in mind, just for a minute or so. After all, the surge is already on. By the end of December, the first 1,500 U.S. troops will have landed in Afghanistan, a nation roughly the size of Texas, ranked by the United Nations as second worst in the world in terms of human development.

Women and men from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, will be among the first to head out. It takes an estimated \$1 million to send each of them surging into Afghanistan for one year. So a 30,000-person surge will be at least \$30 billion, which brings us to that \$57,077.60. That's how much it will cost you, the taxpayer, for one minute of that surge.

By the way, add up the yearly salary of a Marine from Camp Lejeune with four years of service, throw in his or her housing allowance, additional pay for dependents, and bonus pay for hazardous duty, imminent danger, and family separation, and you'll still be many thousands of dollars short of that single minute's sum.

**February 1, 2010
American soldiers killed in Iraq
4,685**

**American soldiers killed in
Afghanistan 1530**

According to a recent report from the Congressional Research Service (CRS), the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have cost close to \$1 trillion thus far 3.6 Billion per month in Afghanistan alone.

Quick Links...

- [Peace Abbey Website](#)

• Supreme Court Decision

We deserve a country where our elected officials are not bought and paid for by Big Business. But last week's Supreme Court decision in the case Citizens United vs. FEC overturned over a century of precedent and opened the floodgates for unlimited amounts of corporate money to flow into our political system.

Shockingly, the court's decision may even allow foreign corporations and large multinationals to manipulate our elections.

Progress on any issue we care about depends upon our ability to stop the corporate takeover of our electoral process. If we do nothing, this ruling has the potential to undermine the very foundation of our democracy.

Representative Alan Grayson has been one the most forceful voices in responding to this crisis. He has introduced a number of bills as part of a "Save Our Democracy" initiative to blunt some of the worst implications of the Supreme Court's decision.

Even before the decision, we too often saw the interests of Main Street subverted in favor of the interests of Wall Street. But with the Citizens United decision now the law of the land, large corporations have the power to spend unlimited amounts of money from their general treasuries to buy elections.

To put things in perspective, the roughly \$745 million Barack Obama raised to run for President (which was the most money raised by any candidate ever to run for office in the U.S.) is dwarfed by the \$45 billion in profits a single company (ExxonMobil) made in 2008.

We have heard that the Democratic leadership in the House and the Senate will be deciding in the next few weeks upon a legislative package to push in response to the Citizens United decision. We need to ensure they respond boldly.

Thank you for working to build a better world. Matt Lockshin, Campaign Manager CREDO Action from Working Assets

• SAVE THE DATE: April 10, 2010

New England Peace Studies Association (NEPSA) will again hold its annual Spring Conference at the Peace Abbey!

- [Combatants for Peace](#)
- [Shareholders Information](#)
- [World Peace March](#)

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- [Pakistan and Afghanistan Journey of Hope](#)

Grandmother Love

- [more information](#)

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We invite presenters to submit proposals for workshops that are in keeping with this years conference theme: **Water, Sun, Earth: Waging War or Building Community Solutions.**

Our focus is to consider how we can foster community and resiliency rather than violent conflict in the face of scarce resources and environmental injustice.

Please send you ideas to: Abbie Jenks, cochair of NEPSA @ gandhi0324@comcast.net

Dot Walsh, Peace Abbey @ dot@peaceabbey.org

Conference costs:
 25.00 for non members,
 20.00 for non members,
 5.00 for students,

Date: April 10, 2010 Time: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Place: The Peace Abbey, Sherborn, MA

• The Peace Abbey Gift Shop



We now have Palestinian olive oil again. Also we have books with copies of the long version of The Prayers for Peace, dvd's with the prayers in English and Spanish and copies of the quotes from the Pacifist Memorial along with other items.

The 2010 Peace Calendars have arrived.

Please come and visit!

[The Peace Abbey Gift Shop](#)

• Tours, Weddings, Conferences

A wonderful way to be introduced to the grounds and buildings at The Peace Abbey is to schedule a group tour. Schools and colleges, church groups, community organizations and other groups are welcomed. For wedding and conference information, please



call the office: (508) 655- 2143
\$100 Donation for Tours

- **Opportunities Exist to Underwrite the Courage of Conscience Award and the Gandhi Exhibit**

We are interested in having a family foundation, a business or individuals underwrite the Courage of Conscience Awards. Please call the office if you have suggestions. Thank You!

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