



# Gospel Peacemaking

Fall 2005

Volume 13, Issue 2

*Northern California Pax Christi*

## Highlights:

- The Spiritual Nurture of Activists: Quaker and Catholic
- Many Stories, One Vision
- Conference on Spiritual Activism
- Healing the World: Sacred Visions for a New America

## The Spiritual Nurture of Activists: A Quaker-Catholic Day of Dialogue

*Donna Foley*

- How do Quakers (in practice, not theory) nurture activists?

- How do Catholics (in practice, not theory) nurture activists?

- Catholic teachings you may not have heard about

- What the heck is a Quaker, anyway?

*"Yet you have the Power of God to skip and leap in..."*

*George Fox, Friend*



Sound interesting? We thought so. Join us for a day of exploration as we examine the care and feeding of activists in two different traditions. In our limited time together, we will trace the common history of Quaker and Catholic peace and justice work here in Northern California.

How often do you think we've shown up at the same place in the last few decades? We have much in common and much to learn from each other.

Let us see if we can explain to others, and to ourselves, just what keeps us going spiritually. Here are some of the speakers who will join us:

**Margery Post Abbott** is a "re-leased" member of the Religious

Society of Friends, who writes about Quakers and travels in the ministry with the support of her monthly meeting. She is the author of *A Certain Kind of Perfection: An Anthology of Evangelical and Liberal Quaker Writers* (1996) and editor of the *Historical Dictionary of Friends (Quakers)* (2003). She has served as Clerk of North

Pacific Yearly Meeting and was co-clerk of the first Pacific Northwest Quaker Women's Theology Conference.

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In 1661, George Fox wrote to Friends: "In the Power of God that is everlasting and remains in this your day of trial, in it stand .... In it is your Peace and Kingdom. Though you have not a foot of ground to stand upon, yet you have the Power of God to skip and leap in, standing in that which is your Life ...."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church speaks of the "joy and demands of the way of Christ" and a "catechesis [teaching] of the Holy Spirit, the interior Master of life according to Christ, a gentle guest and friend who inspires, guides, corrects and strengthens this life."

*"...the Holy Spirit, ..., a gentle guest and friend who inspires, guides, corrects, strengthens this life."*

*Catholic Catechism*



***Northern California Pax Christi***  
**October 1st**  
*Details and flyer on page 3*  
***Send in your registration today***

# Many Stories, One Vision: Pax Christi USA National Assembly with Nevada Desert Experience - Donna Foley

For the Japanese, a 60th anniversary holds special meaning. This year, to commemorate the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the United States, Pax Christi USA co-sponsored a large event in Las Vegas from August 4-7. About 400 of us met at the University of Nevada campus, close to both the famous "strip" and the infamous Nevada Test Site. Our time together included incredible opportunities for learning, witnessing and worship. It was truly a Pax Christi meeting writ large, with prayer, study and action.

Participants from all over the country represented Buddhist, Protestant, Jewish, Native American and Catholic traditions, as well as secular groups like the Western States Legal Foundation. We were warmly welcomed by **Anne Symens-Bucher**, co-founder of Nevada Desert Experience and **Corbin Harney**, spiritual leader of the Western Shoshone Nation. In a talk entitled "Holy Land," **Janet Chisholm** of the Fellowship of Reconciliation described growing up in Las Vegas during the atomic testing. Throughout our time together we were energized and blessed by live music, dance and dramatic performances.

I was very deeply moved by **Tony de Brum**'s talk. A former senator in the Parliament of the Marshall Islands, he lived on the island of Likiep for the entire 12 years of the U.S. atomic and thermonuclear testing program. His story, like that of the Shoshone people, made it clear that the violence and poison of nuclear weaponry continues to spread long after 1945. **Dr. James Yamazaki**, a distinguished pediatrician, did a presentation on his work with A-bomb survivors in Nagasaki.

There is so much I did not know, or was only vaguely aware of. **Jacqueline Cabasso** and **Andy Lichterman** of the Western States Legal Foundation both did an excellent job of explaining how nuclear weapons are connected to a whole range of current issues and policies. **Rabbi Arthur Waskow** is director of The

Shalom Center, and named one of the world's "wisdom keepers" by the United Nations. He led us in some beautiful breath-centered prayer and spoke of the Center's "Tent of Abraham" interfaith project.

Of course, this was Pax Christi USA's National Assembly, so we heard our Executive Director, **Dave Robinson**, give an update

on Fr. Gerard Jean-Juste's condition in Haiti. Dave then presented Pax Christi's Paul VI Teacher of Peace Award to **Monsignor Ray East**, Vicar for Evangelization of the Office of Black Catholics in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. It is difficult to convey in words the absolute joy and humility that radiate from Msgr. East. All I can say is, if you ever have a chance to attend Mass when he is the celebrant - do it!

All of this, the prayer and celebration, the nonviolence training, was all to prepare us for Saturday night's public witness and action at the Nevada Test Site. We boarded several buses and went out into the desert to this place, where at 928 announced times, our Sister Mother

Earth was assaulted. I waited while my friends **Louise Lynch** and **Silvia Chiesa** "crossed

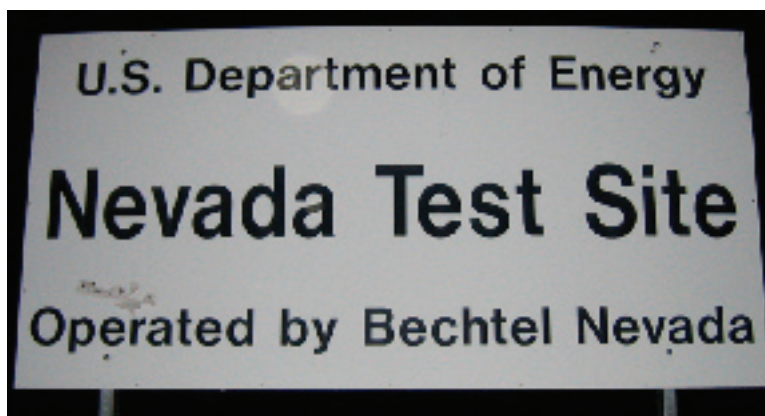
the line", along with so many others. They stepped into the place forbidden to them, broke the law, but did no wrong. They had the permission of the Western Shoshone Nation and their own consciences to validate their action. They crossed - young, strong,

old, frail - because they could not do otherwise. The ones we know, like **Martin Sheen** and dear **Father Louis Vitale**, and ones whose names we do not know. Our brothers and sisters, come to the desert once more. They will keep returning for as long as it takes.

Here is just one snapshot of the legacy left after our nation's weapons testing in the Pacific:



**Corbin Harney, Shoshone spiritual leader**



"Army recruiters are scouring the Pacific, looking for high school graduates to enlist at a time when the Iraq war is turning off many candidates in the States. ... The Army has found fertile ground in the poverty pockets of the Pacific. In the Marshalls and Micronesia, former trust territories, per capita incomes are about \$2,000." - New York Times, July 31, 2005.

# ***The Spiritual Nurture of Activists:*** **A Quaker - Catholic Day of Dialogue**

*Who are those other nice folks we meet at demonstrations?  
And where does their strength come from?  
Join us for an informative and friendly day with speakers from both traditions*

**Marge Abbott**, Quaker author and teacher  
**Mary Doyle**, Diocese of Oakland Social Justice Resources  
**Mary Litell**, OSF, Pace e Bene

**October 1, 2005**  
9:00 am to 4:30 pm

**Berkeley Friends Church**  
1600 Sacramento St., Berkeley, CA 94702  
2 blocks north of the North Berkeley BART station  
Soup lunch will be provided



**A registration donation of \$15 is requested**  
(no one will be turned away for lack of funds)  
**Sponsored by Northern California Pax Christi**  
**For more information contact Gustavo Nystrom 925-551-8064**

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## **Registration**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to "Bay Area Pax Christi" and send c/o Donna Foley  
457 Maar Ave., Fremont CA 94536**

*From page 1..., "The Spiritual Nurture of Activists..."*

Margery lives in Portland, Oregon.

**Mary Doyle**, as the Social Justice Resource Specialist in the Department of Parish Catechetical Outreach, is responsible for providing support for social justice ministry in the Diocese of Oakland. Mary provides education and action resources for all parish programs; assists with workshops, courses, retreats, and service opportunities; promotes Catholic Social Teaching, and supports the ministers of social justice in the diocese, through formation, education, and collaboration.

**Mary Litell**, OSF, with a background in music, dance and

sociology, has been involved in a variety of national and international projects that helped in the development of Pace e Bene's Nurturing a Culture of Nonviolence program. In addition to these workshops on peace, she guides retreats and circle dancing, and works with Capacitar, an intercultural network of people involved in healing, empowerment and social transformation, especially in the areas of poverty and violence.

We have the pleasure of seeing each other at marches and vigils. Let's lay our banners aside for a few hours and share, as honestly as we can, how our spiritual communities do (or do not) nurture our work. So, on October 1 - skip and leap on in. And bring plenty of gentle guests and friends. See the included registration form for details.

## Mev Puleo Peacemaker Scholarships

*Mary Jane Parrine*

The Mev Puleo Peacemaker Scholarship will be awarded each Fall by Northern California Pax Christi to one student who best fulfills the qualifications listed below. The purpose of the scholarship is to aid the educational aims and career path of a student who wishes to advocate for social justice from a faith-based perspective in the following areas:

- Spirituality of non-violence and peacemaking
- Disarmament, demilitarization, and reconciliation with justice
- Economic and interracial justice in the United States
- Human rights and global restoration

### Qualifications

An undergraduate or graduate student at a northern California Catholic university or a regular participant in a campus Newman Center or parish who:

- Embraces the mission and goals of Pax Christi USA
- Approaches the pursuit of justice and peace within a faith-based context
- Is willing to grow in knowledge and in the application of the principles of non-violent conflict resolution
- Demonstrates knowledge of basic principles of Catholic social teaching
- Demonstrates a financial need, to be described in the application essay

The amount of the scholarship given this year will be \$1,000.

For further information and application form, please contact Mary Jane Parrine (parrine@stanford.edu) or Stan Taylor, Chair, Northern California Pax Christi, at s.taylor@mac.com.

The deadline for application is May 15, 2006

### \* Mev Puleo: A Brief Biography

Born in Saint Louis and a graduate of Saint Louis University, Mev Puleo was a photojournalist, author, teacher, campus minister, and activist whose life was short in time but great in achievement. She used photographs and interviews to draw attention to the struggles and aspirations of poor people attempting to defend their dignity in spite of political and economic adversity. Among her publications are the collection of interviews compiled with Robert McAfee Brown, *The Struggle Is One: Voices and Visions of Liberation* (State University of New York Press, 1994), "The Prophetic Art of Bearing Witness: The Work of Sabastião Salgado," *Arts: The Arts in Religious and Theological Studies*, 7/1 (1994): 19-25, the photography both for Ernesto Cardenal's *Abide in Love* (Orbis Books, 1995) and for Leonardo Boff's *The Path to Hope: Fragments from a Theologian's Journey* (Orbis, 1993), as well as the posthumously published work done with John Kavanaugh, S.J., *Faces of Poverty, Faces of Christ* (Dimensions, 2000). Her travels and research took her to Brazil, El Salvador, Mexico, and, in 1992, to Haiti as part of a delegation that included other representatives from Northern

*Continued on page 6...*





# The Conference on Spiritual Activism

## *Silvia Chiesa*

I felt fortunate to attend the Conference on Spiritual Activism, July 20th-23rd, at the U.C. Berkeley campus. This founding conference is the spirit-child of Rabbi Michael Lerner, author of *The Left Hand of God*, and the Tikkun Community. They were joined by Rev. Jim Wallis, editor of *Sojourners* magazine (Christians for Justice and Peace) and author of *God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It*, and Michael Nagler, our host and founder of the Peace and Conflict Studies Program at UC Berkeley, president of METTA: Center for Nonviolence Education and Peaceworkers, and author of *The Search for a Nonviolent Future*. They hope to launch a Network of Spiritual Progressives. The stated conference goals were:

1. Challenge the misuse of God and religion by the Religious Right – and champion a progressive spiritual politics,
2. Challenge the anti-spiritual and religio-phobic tendencies in some sections of liberal and progressive culture,
3. Challenge the American ethos of selfishness and materialism by championing a New Bottom Line for American society – so that institutions get judged efficient, rational or productive not only to the extent that they maximize money and power, but also to the extent that they maximize love, caring, kindness, generosity, ethical/ecological sensitivity and awe and wonder at the grandeur of the universe.

There were over 20 sponsoring and endorsing organizations and over 100 speakers, workshop presenters and performers: Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Tao, spiritual but not religious, and secular friends who are open to a spiritual and non-violent focus.

Speakers and presenters included:

- Ken Butigan, Laura Slattery and Ken Preston-Pile (Pace e Bene)
- Fritjof Capra (Center for Ecoliteracy)
- Angana Chatterji (advocate for social justice working with post-colonial social movements focusing on India and South Asia)
- John Dear S.J. (Catholic priest, peace activist and author)
- Mel Duncan (Nonviolent Peaceforce)
- Riane Eisler (author: *The Chalice and The Blade*, co-founder: Spiritual Alliance to Stop Intimate Violence)
- Carol Lee Flinders (*Enduring Grace: Living Portraits of Seven Women Mystics and Rebalancing the World*)

- Matthew Fox (*The Reinvention of Work*)
- Arun Gandhi (grandson of Mahatma Gandhi)
- Jim Garrison (Understanding the Theology of Christian Fundamentalists)
- Van Jones (founder – Ella Baker Center for Human Rights)
- George Lakoff (*Don't Think of an Elephant*)
- Ched Myers (Sabbath Economics Collaborative)
- Dave Robinson (Pax Christi USA executive director)
- John Shelby Spong (retired Episcopal bishop, author of *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism and Why Christianity Must Change or Die*)
- Thandeka (*The Embodied Self: Learning to be White*)
- Rick Ufford-Chase (current Moderator of the Presbyterian Church USA)
- Louis Vitale, O.F.M. (Franciscan co-founder of Nevada Desert Experience)
- Carol S. Wolman (psychiatrist, workshop: *Reframing Revelation*)
- Ama Zenya (Senior Pastor of 1st Congregational Church of Oakland speaking on *Building a Progressive Spiritual Politics on Sexuality and Family – "Choose Life"*).

Conference registration exceeded its capacity, taking 1,300 people and turning away hundreds. Attending were young and old from all over the U.S., Canada, Europe and other parts of the globe. There will be another conference in the Spring 2006 in Washington, D.C. If you would like to be part of that conference or would like to inquire about, join or form a local chapter of the Network of Spiritual Progressives contact the Tikkun Community, [www.Tikkun.org](http://www.Tikkun.org). Several of the members of our Pax Christi Burlingame group will gather with other spiritual progressives for a potluck dinner and possible next steps in August. We're looking forward to broadening the conversation and infusing our spiritual energy into God's politics.

[www.Tikkun.org](http://www.Tikkun.org) - Rabbi Michael Lerner, Tikkun  
[www.sojo.net](http://www.sojo.net) - Rev. Jim Wallis, Sojourners  
[www.mettacenter.org](http://www.mettacenter.org) - Michael Nagler, Mettacenter

*Editor's note: Recordings of the keynote addresses can be ordered on the Tikkun web site listed above.*



# Healing the World: Sacred Visions for a New America

*Gustavo Nystrom*

The weekend of July 23 2005, a wonderful interfaith conference was held in Asilomar, near the Monterey Peninsula. I am very proud that Pax Christi was the primary Catholic co-sponsor.

The theme of the retreat experience centered on the question "What visions do we have for the USA 25 years from now?"

Prof. Robert Bellah, who recently retired from the Sociology Department at UC Berkeley, gave the keynote address. He has spent much of his life on the sociology of religions and the impact of their symbols. He argued that religion needs to participate in the public dialogue in order to raise the level of discussion from an adolescent level. He underlined the importance of wisdom and a culture of care. He highlighted the importance of a worship that incorporates involvement in the world. He also touched on the difficulty of being a prophet and the temptation of despair.

Five "responders" then provided input from the Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and Brahma Kumari perspectives. Not surprisingly, there was quite a bit of agreement on the broad vision of what we all want the USA to become.

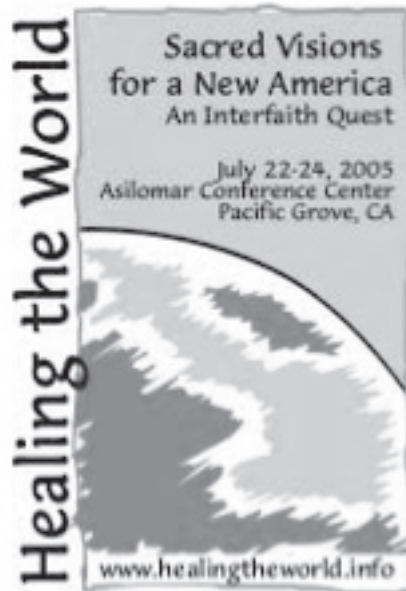
The "open space" process was then employed to form groups that wanted to discuss specific issues of interest. The group I joined dealt with how to put on interfaith programs locally. We mainly shared our experiences and ideas.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the kind of surprise that springs up sometimes. We had wanted to have a Hindu voice at the weekend and the Livermore Hindu temple had agreed to send a lay leader. When I talked to the lay leader a couple of days prior to the weekend, he said he'd only be able to come for one day, since he had a houseguest. I encouraged him to bring his

houseguest, and the houseguest turned out to be a Ghandian teacher! This fellow has spent the last half century meeting with youth to pass on some of the wisdom of Mahatma Ghandi. And he spent several hours wowing our youth with his games, stories and prayers. The Ghandian teacher works in India for ten months every year. Then, during the two monsoon months, he puts on youth programs outside of India. What an unexpected gift!

We all had a chance to pray with many of the religious traditions in the US. The final prayer happened to be Sunday morning, and it was a Catholic mass. The presider (Fr. Scott McCarthy) did a wonderful job of being very inclusive while still celebrating a proper Catholic Eucharist. Later I found out that he is responsible for putting together a "Handbook for Ecumenical and Interfaith Worship" for the local diocese of Monterey.

One incident illustrates how wonderful the Asilomar weekend was. On the last morning, one of our older ladies took a bad fall, probably broke a finger and needed some stitches in her hand. After a nurse participant took care of the first aid, the wounded lady insisted on staying at Asilomar to the very end before tending to her medical needs in town!




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*From page 4... "Mev Puleo Peacemaking Scholarship"...*

California Pax Christi. She was a strong presence in national events, notably as master of ceremonies at the 1993 World Youth Day in Denver, where she spoke with Pope John Paul II about the poor in Haiti and the need to recognize women's place in the church. She was frequently recognized for her work, including the 1995 U.S. Catholic Award for furthering the cause of women in the Catholic Church and the Pedro Arrupe Award from the Jesuit School of Theology in Berkeley in 1995. Mev Puleo's life was cut short when she died of a brain tumor in January 1996 at the age of 32. At that time she was working on a new book and pursuing studies at the Franciscan School of Theology. She is remembered for living every day as if it were her last, and her spirit continues to inspire other young people in their quest for justice and peace.

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## Help Us Continue with Our Outreach Coordinator

Last issue we asked for donations to help us fund a part time outreach coordinator. We again ask you to be generous and contribute what you can. Our outreach coordinator has been a God-send in helping the region get to know you and serve our mission better. Please send what you can to BAPC, 30847 Prestwick Av, Hayward, CA 94544, attn: Outreach Coordinator Fund.

**Northern California****Pax Christi**

30847 Prestwick Av  
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**Notes:**

Entries are grouped by area code, roughly north to south. Please send corrections to donnamfoley@comcast.net

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## Honor Fr. Louis Vitale

**Friends of Friar Louis Vitale, O.F.M. and the St. Boniface Neighborhood Center**  
invite you to a Reader's Theater production of "The Trial of the Catonsville Nine"  
by Daniel Berrigan, S.J.

**Friday, August 26th, Theatre St. Boniface, 175 Golden Gate Av, San Francisco**  
**Doors at 6:30, 7:00 Curtain**

**Reserve your general admission sliding scale tickets (\$10-100) by calling 415-861-5848 or  
by emailing sbnctr@hotmail.com**

**Proceeds to benefit St. Boniface Neighborhood Center's work of peace and justice**

***Northern California Pax Christi***  
**30847 Prestwick Av**  
**Hayward, CA 94544**



## ***Renew your Pax Christi USA Membership Now***

***Send \$35 to Pax Christi, USA***  
***532 West 8th St***  
***Erie, PA 16502-1343***

*Renewing your membership in Pax Christi USA supports the Northern California region's activities.  
If you can't afford \$35, give what you can. What is important is that you join and register.*

## **Hold the Dates!**

October 1, 2005, Quaker-Catholic dialogue  
August 26, 2005, Honor Fr. Louis Vitale  
September 25, 2005, Inter-Religious Convocation for  
Peace (call 925-551-8064 for information)

October 16, 2005, Inter-Religious Banquet to end  
the Muslim fast (call 925-551-8064 for details)  
Oct. 7, **2006**, Bishop Gabino Zavala  
President, Pax Christi USA