



The Climate Changer

North Manchester Fellowship of Reconciliation
PO Box 25, North Manchester, Indiana 46962

December 2002

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The Climate Changer is
published quarterly by the
North Manchester
Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Editor: Andrew Duffy.



The North Manchester FOR recently contracted this billboard on State Road 13 between Sidney and Pierceton. Visible to South bound traffic, the billboard stands as a reminder of the interconnectedness of our global community.

From the Coordinator:

While attending a forum about the current world situation a few months ago, a participant implied that peace and justice groups can only be *viable* when there is a threat of major war. It is true that several groups have sprouted recently in response to the War on Terrorism, the repression of civil liberties, and the impending war with Iraq. It is also true that many peace and justice groups grow dormant between major conflicts. While I recognize the importance of these groups in raising awareness among the public during times of intense conflict, I find that I need to be part of a group that is continually working for peace, by working for justice. To satisfy my soul, I need to be part of a group that can be *viable* not only during major wars, but also between wars.

Paul Pierce, who now resides in Beijing, China, introduced me to the North Manchester FOR three years ago. I agreed to be on the steering committee two years ago. This past September, after our previous coordinator Chris Good moved on to Central America, I agreed to become the new coordinator of the North Manchester FOR. (Continued as "From the Coordinator..." on page 2)

From the Coordinator...

I was happy to take on this task because this group works year round, during and between wars, and actively to address justice issues in our community and world. This issue of *The Climate Changer* highlights some of the ongoing projects of the local FOR group in our continued joint effort to bring about a more peaceful tomorrow.

Your ongoing input and support make our projects possible. On page six of this newsletter you will find a short Contribution Appeal. Please take time to look it over and send in your contribution so that the North Manchester FOR can continue being *viable* for years to come.

Peace,

Andrew Duffy, Coordinator

Changing Faces

The past few months have seen a few changing faces on the steering committee of the North Manchester FOR.

Our immediate past coordinator, Chris Good, and past committee member Heidi Beck, left for Guatemala in early September. Chris and Heidi were instrumental in getting the English as a Second Language program started in our community. (See story on page 4) They are currently volunteering in El Salvador. Their commitment to Peace and Justice will be missed here in North Manchester.

Andrew Duffy, steering committee member, has taken on the responsibilities of coordinator. He currently is also working as the Peace Studies Intern at Manchester College.

Two community members have recently accepted positions on the steering committee: Velma Shearer and Marianne Kelsey.

Rev. Dr. Velma Shearer recently moved to North Manchester from Englewood, Ohio, where she spent many years in a peace and justice ministry, addressing primarily the nuclear weapons production facilities in Ohio and the environmental contamination as a result of the operation of these facilities. Her doctoral thesis included extensive exegetical study, a lengthy annotated bibliography, and a peace studies course for peace activists.

Marianne Kelsey, a community native, recently graduated from Earlham College. She is a member of Heartwood and she is a chapter representative for the Weston A. Price Foundation for Earth Friendly Farming. She owns and operates a handmade paper business. Marianne initiated and helps run the Manchester Peace Vigil. (See "Weekly Peace Vigil" on page 3)

The steering committee is very interested in hearing your ideas and concerns. Address them to PO Box 25, or approach a committee member at one of our events.

Manchester College Announces New Plowshares Director

Julie Garber, a long-time North Manchester resident and a North Manchester FOR steering committee member, has been named director of the Plowshares grant and associate dean. She began Aug. 12.

Garber will oversee Manchester College's share of a \$13.88 million grant awarded to it, Earlham, and Goshen colleges by Lilly Endowment Inc.

"Julie will offer outstanding leadership at Manchester for a very important collaborative program," Manchester College President Parker G. Marden said. "She has proven administrative skills, a solid background in peace studies, (Continued as "New Plowshares Director..." on page 3)

New Plowshares Director...

and a personal commitment to peace and justice that will serve the Plowshares program well."

The grant — named "Plowshares" after the Isaiah 2 passage that calls for swords to be beaten into plowshares — will not only strengthen peace, justice, and conflict studies at the three campuses but also across the nation and world. The grant will be shared among the three colleges from July 1, 2002, to June 30, 2006.

The Plowshares grant will also provide for the three schools to establish a "Peace House" in Indianapolis — a program for students to gain practical knowledge about peace and justice work while serving the Indianapolis community and a facility in which to develop new approaches to the study and practice of peace and justice. Students will live in Indianapolis, taking courses in peace studies, social justice, reconciliation, and related issues.

Peace House also will serve as a base for community outreach and conflict resolution work in metropolitan Indianapolis. Staff and students will collaborate with established human services organizations, neighborhood groups, members of the artistic community, and others interested in promoting peace and resolving conflicts. Through internships and service projects, Peace House students will learn from the excellence that already exists in area agencies and organizations that emphasize peaceful community intervention.

The grant will allow each college's peace studies program and the Peace House to continue to analyze the root causes of conflict and violence while developing strategies and practical actions to help resolve conflicts in a healthy manner.

Manchester College will send faculty groups to points of conflict internationally, increase its

archival peace collection, strengthen student media and student arts groups, and invest in the Model United Nations program.

Weekly Peace Vigil

Members of the FOR and the Manchester Church of the Brethren holds a Peace Vigil on the corner of Main and Market Streets (in front of the old police station) each Wednesday from 5:15 – 5:45. The vigils are a public statement decrying the use of war to end terrorism. All are welcome and free to come and go. Questions? Please feel free to contact Marianne Kelsey at 982-4508.

International Student Scholarship Funds Awarded

The North Manchester FOR donated \$1,350 to Manchester College for international students in early September. The college was directed to use the money to help international students with substantial financial need. Five students had awards posted to their college accounts. One student, writing to say thank you, stated, "Thank you to the FOR for their generosity. The scholarship helped me at a time I needed the help."

The NM FOR International Student Project regularly donates funds to Manchester College to help meet the needs of its diverse community of international students. Donations are needed to revitalize this fund after the recent gift to the college. You can tag all or part of your gift to the FOR for this project on the contribution form on page six.



Bumper Sticker Project

Please select which phrase you would like to see on a bumper sticker and note your choice on the contribution form on page 6. The phrase with the most votes will be selected for a new bumper sticker.

- #1 “How Many Lives per Barrel?”
- #2 “War is So Last Century!”
- #3 “If you liked Viet Nam, You'll Love Iraq”
- #4 “Blind Faith in Bad Leadership is Not Patriotism”
- #5 “We are not worth more; they are not worth less”
- #6 “THINK! It's Patriotic”
- #7 “War does not decide who's right, only who's left.”
- #8 “Nonviolence: Anti-terrorism that Works”
- #9 “War is just terrorism with a bigger budget”
- #10 “Like I Need a Reason for Peace”

The Gift of a Manger by an Innskeeper?

Thoughts by Rev. Dr. Velma Shearer

A yearning for peace stands in contrasts to the ongoing reality in our world and to the prevalent practices in political life. Because we accept war as so inevitably a part of human experience we think that peace can only be kept by mastering the techniques of war. We persuade ourselves that the world is kept from chaos only by might. Peacemaking through armaments and coercion alone is based upon fear. To live in fear is only to hope that no destructive interchange takes place. When operating out of fear, we conclude that no diplomatic initiatives will ever result in good faith or lead to a solution of differences.

Assumed power based upon super weaponry creates a psychology of unsurpassable controls. The weaker must give in to the stronger.

Yet the threat to human existence as posed by nuclear weapons and the threat of preemptive strike have caused many to doubt the usefulness of warfare as a means of keeping peace. With warfare now potentially suicidal, our thinking must change, and we must probe our assumptions and remake our very soul as a people. We have to learn to *think* about peace, to create an attitude of mind and heart into a passion for peace, and to know ourselves as capable of having respect and compassion for another.

FOR Delegation Visits Manchester College

Noa Simone, an Israeli conscientious objector, and Hossein Alizadeh, an Iranian Muslim, recently visited Manchester College. Hosted by the Peace Studies office, the two visited classes and participated in an evening forum with college and community members.



Noa Simone

Hossein Alizadeh, an Iranian Muslim with a MA in International Relations and Peace Studies, joined the Fellowship of Reconciliation in 2001 as the intern for the Iraq program. As FOR's senior fellow he currently coordinates the



Hossein Alizadeh

Campaign of Conscience for the Iraqi People at the FOR. Before coming to the US, he worked as a research associate for the think tank of Iran's Foreign Ministry as their specialist on Afghanistan and the Taliban movement.

(Continued as “FOR Delegation...” on page 5)

Contribution Appeal:

The success of the North Manchester Fellowship of Reconciliation depends on the active participation of community members. One important way to participate is by contributing funds to help support the various projects and activities of the organization. Please complete and send the following contribution form to the North Manchester FOR, PO Box 25, North Manchester, IN 46962.

Please check where you would like your contribution used and indicate the amount:

_____ General FOR account (mailings, advertisements, bill boards, supplies, etc.) \$ _____

_____ The fund to elect Henry Kissinger President in 2004 \$ _____

_____ FOR International Student Project Account \$ _____

_____ New designer ties for Rush Limbaugh \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Bumper Sticker Choice: # _____

FOR Delegation...

Noa Simone, born and raised in Israel with dual American/Israeli citizenship, graduated from high school in 2000. One year later she entered preliminary military instruction. After five weeks and tremendous inner struggle, she reached a decision to abstain from the military and began the highly tedious process of seeking conscientious objector status. She was granted CO status and released from the Israeli military in May of 2002. Currently she interns at the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

ESL Program Enters the New Year With Energy and Anticipation **By Nate Shull, ESL Program Coordinator**

This January North Manchester's English as a Second Language Program will enter its third calendar year of providing first-rate, free English-language instruction to area Spanish speakers. The program is an initiative of the North Manchester FOR and is supported by a CAPE grant administered by the Wabash

County Community Foundation. An additional gift from the FOR has helped to complete the program goals for 2002.

Over time the program has grown and developed. Currently four classes are held per week during two time slots in order to make them available to students who work a variety of hours. Classes are held at the Town Life Center, where we have recently moved across the hall from our previous class room and into the new Learn More Center. During the past year we have also made a successful transition from our original coordinator, Heidi Beck, to the current one, Nate Shull. In addition, two energetic and highly-qualified teachers have been hired. Sidury Christiansen and Sally Rich, both trained in ESL, will continue to provide quality instruction through the New Year. In addition, a new curriculum has been purchased and is being made available to students at a minimal price. Attendance has grown, energy is high, and creativity is flourishing.

(Continued as "ESL Program..." on page 5)



**North Manchester
Fellowship of Reconciliation**
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North Manchester, IN 46962

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FOR Winter Open House

December 15

4-6 PM

Town Life Center
Conference Room

ESL Program...

An annual report will be presented to the CAPE administrators in January, and we fully expect to receive funds to continue the program through 2003.

Though attendance levels are up as compared to this time last year, a primary goal is to raise attendance even more. A continuing challenge is to maintain regular attendance by current students and to bring in new students as well. With a current average of 4-5 students per class, we are just short of last year's projected goal of 6 students per class. An innovative new program that we are developing in conjunction with area businesses could help to meet this challenge. Through this program, businesses will award small monetary bonuses to Spanish-speaking employees who maintain regular attendance in the ESL classes. Several businesses have already shown an interest in the program, and we hope to have it in place near the start of the New Year. This

program could potentially raise attendance levels dramatically.

With first-rate teachers and curriculum and a continuing commitment to bridging cultural divides, the North Manchester ESL Program is looking with hope and excitement toward another successful year.

Winter Open House

The North Manchester Fellowship of Reconciliation is hosting a winter open house to great members and friends of the organization. The open house will be Sunday, December 15, 4 to 6 PM. Located in the conference room of the North Manchester Town Life Center, the open house is intended to rekindle community connections and to reaffirm our common hope for peace. The Town Life Center is located on Bond Street between Sixth Street and Seventh Street. Please come for part or all of the time.