

SYNERGY UPDATE

*Building a World
That Works for
Everyone*

Passion creates the action; responsibility carries it forward.

The Power of Alliances Is Forging Change

In 2011, MAP delegates unanimously voted to support a Constitutional amendment that would abolish the U.S. Supreme Court's "**corporate personhood**" and "**money is speech**" rulings. At that time, an amendment seemed like an impossible dream, with few legislators daring to buck their benefactor's wishes. But that is changing.

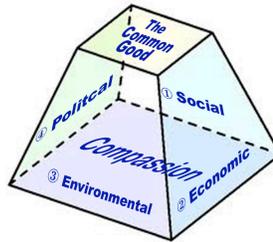
The power of alliances is forging change. *Public Citizen, Common Cause, People for the American Way, Free Speech for People, Move to Amend*, and other local, state and national coalitions are producing indirect grassroots pressure on Congress for an amendment, as well as for the **public financing of elections**.

Nearly 600 municipalities have approved the amendment. Sixteen state governments have joined "**Petitions for Democracy**." And, **198 in the senate and house** (nearly 1/3 of all members) are signed on as **sponsors** of an amendment to **get corporate cash out of politics**.

The democracy train is high balling. People want change. MAP members; give city councils and mayors the "**We The People**" flip cards, encouraging them to create resolutions similar to MAP's. Wear the "**Move to Amend**" buttons. Hold teach-ins.

The tipping point will come when a legislator's vote **against** this amendment will be an embarrassment to him or her.

For more info, contact **Robin Monahan**, robinhrmonahan@gmail.com



Celebrating Our Work In Making A Difference

We are a compassionate community, and **we celebrate** that.

We can be grateful for what so many among MAP's membership are doing. We celebrate **Martha Roberts, Donna Minter and Cecil Ramnaraine** for their tireless work in peace education.

We celebrate **Mary Lynn Murphy, Cat Solenak and Chris Grey** for their work against unscrupulous home foreclosures.

We celebrate **John and Marie Braun, Wayne Wittman, Larry Johnson** and others for their years of raising awareness of the cost and futility of war in solving conflict. On and on; so many deeds to celebrate.

And, we are reminded how all our peacemaking efforts are connected—cumulating to make a world that works for everyone.

How many of us have been inspired by the words of Desmond Tutu; "*there is something everyone can do to make a difference.*"



Vets for Peace Heading to Fort Benning Again

November 21-24 - If persistence ever pays off the VFP SOAW annual vigil at Fort Benning should. For more information about this bus trip contact **Wayne Wittman** at his email or phone listed below.

THE LEADERSHIP TEAM—WHO TO CONTACT ABOUT WHAT

Delegates have selected seven of their own to serve in a leadership role to manage the structure, process, and tasks necessary for MAP to function well.

These are the people to contact when you have inputs, questions, or grievances:

Dennis Dillon: convener and Plymouth Church liaison. dennis.dillon@msn.com 612-333-0723

Wayne Wittman: membership. waynecwittman@gmail.com 651-695-5297

Burt Berlowe: news releases and letters. bberlowe@comcast.net 612-722-1504



Madeline Simon: website/member Lists. madeline-mpls@msn.com 952-854-2976

April Knutson: recording secretary. knutsoo1@umn.edu 612-823-5989

Mary Faulkner: treasurer. rfofmpslmn@aol.com 612-823-5524

Sook Holdridge: delegate contacts and the Synergy Update sook51@gmail.com 952-922-7311

Uncovering the truth of the Israeli-Palestine conflict

MAP members need to talk. The U.S. is intricately involved in the Israeli-Palestine conflict, and it is affecting all of us. The truth needs to be sifted out, publicized, and acted upon by MAP. We all need to know more about the pact Israel has with the U.S.; the \$3b in aid we give Israel annually—mostly to support its military, and the influence of the Israel lobby on our elections and legislative process.

The issue is complex. Netanyahu says Israel has a right to defend itself.



Palestine claims it has been “imprisoned” by Israel far too long.

Several MAP member organizations

have been holding anti-war vigils applying to several disturbing fronts.

WAMM End War Committee, Twin Cities Peace Campaign and Anti-War Committee are holding weekly vigils at the Lake St./Marshall Avenue bridge every Wed. 5:00-6:00.

WAMM conducts weekly Palestine vigils every Friday at Snelling and Summit 4:30-5:30 demanding an end to the siege of Gaza, and an end to U.S. military aid to Israel.

The challenge is, with so much hostility on both sides, how can people and nations work a process for finding common ground and peace?

“Israel has engaged in collective punishment of the Palestinian people since 1948 through forced evacuation, war, occupation, apartheid practices, expanding settlements, mass incarceration, and outright terrorism. From its inception, the Zionist objective has been ethnic cleansing and land appropriation. It is important that we take a public stand against these atrocities.”

Marie Braun.

Occupy Homes-MN Has A Glowing National Reputation

Occupy Homes (OHMN) is regarded as one of the most effective housing justice groups in the country.

OHMN’s negotiations with banks threatening families with foreclosure, have been largely successful due to the effective use of pressure and grass roots determination!

Beyond its local efforts, OHMN has coordinated and trained with housing and community groups from around the country who are working not only on housing issues, but on related causes of homelessness, poverty, the minimum wage, renters rights, student debt and system changes. Its work is impressive.

To stay informed, sign up for **OHMN** email updates at----->



Mary Lynn Murphy

Wayne Wittman Receives VFP Lifetime Achievement Award at Nat'l Convention

Out of a field of at least seven people, **Wayne Wittman** won the Howard Zinn Lifetime Achievement Award to the backdrop of an enthusiastic standing ovation.

Wayne Wittman is an active member of Vets for Peace, Chapter 27, and now serves on MAP’s Leadership Team.

Congratulations Wayne!



Note...this newsletter is available to print out on MAPM.org

Compassion As A Principle For Peacemaking Activism

[CharterforCompassion.org]

With so much discord and violence around the world and at home, the principle of compassion becomes increasingly relevant. We **can** cultivate a disposition of loving-kindness and respect in ourselves and exhibit it in approaching everyone we meet. We can also adopt an open-minded, generative spirit that leads to solving the world’s challenges creatively.

You are encouraged to sign on to the Charter at the web site above. Click on “**The Charter**” in its menu. Or, **your organization** can sign on as a Partner by clicking on “**Partner**”. Note: The founder, **Karen Armstrong** is coming to speak on November 11th at the Fitzgerald theater, St. Paul.

MAP’s annual meeting theme will relate to the **principle of compassion**. Submit to Sook Holdridge, sook51@gmail.com, **your story of a person or group exercising compassion in a challenging peacemaking situation**—and he will assemble them for sharing at the December annual meeting.

MAP Sponsoring Screening of “Beyond the Divide”

Produced and Directed by Jan Selby

This full length documentary models peace-building at its finest in a way that can be applied to **any** divide.

The characters are real people (Vietnam Vets and PeacePeople) and how they moved beyond their history of animosity to find common ground.

It demonstrates how we don’t have to accept our growing culture of polarization if we’ll focus on what unites us more than what divides us.

It’s well suited for MAP peacemakers to see, and will be shown at the Parkway theater, Sun Nov 9th 2: pm.